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ASEAN Military Chiefs Oppose Cambodia Support

BK0312151094 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Dec 94 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The army commanders of other ASEAN countries share the views of Thai Commander-in-Chief Wimon Wongwanit concerning Cambodia, according to a highly-placed source in the Army.

The commanders believe outside military support would worsen the situation in that country, where rifts should be settled through political means, said the source, an army general.

Gen Wimon unofficially raised the question of Cambodia with military leaders from five other ASEAN countries—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore—who are in the country to take part in the closing ceremony of the Fourth ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (AARM), which ends today.

He reiterated his stance to armed forces leaders from ASEAN countries that the situation in Cambodia would become explosive if its government got military support from outsiders, the source said.

"There is no doubt that the situation there would certainly turn explosive if lethal weapons were supplied by the superpowers," the source said, adding that there was no opposition to economic assistance to Cambodia.

ASEAN military leaders feel that problems in Cambodia should be solved politically by its own people without interference from outsiders, which would only worsen the situation, the source said.

Gen Wimon had "cleared" allegations that the Thai military had provided support for the Khmer Rouge, the source said.

The ASEAN military leaders in the country this week are: Brigadier-General Datuk Sri Pahlawan, commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces; Gen Wismoyo Arismunandar, Indonesia's army chief of staff; Gen Datuk Ismail bin Omar, Malaysia's army chief; Gen Romulo F. Yap, commanding general of the Philippines Army; and Major- General Lim Neo Chian, Singapore's army chief.

The source said Gen Wimon exchanged views on security in the region with other ASEAN military leaders.

Over the recent US proposal to deploy a floating arms depot in the Gulf of Thailand, the source said the ASEAN military leaders said they were against it.

They were of the opinion that the threat to security in the region was not great enough to justify the US proposal.

The AARM, held in Prachuap Khirikhan Province, began last week and ends today.

It was the first time ASEAN military leaders had been brought together and demonstrated the degree of unity that existed, the source said.

"ASEAN military leaders are all in agreement that military ties among ASEAN countries should be strengthened and more military cooperation is needed to boost ties," the source said.

In a related development, Supreme Commander Gen Wattanachai Wutthisiri said he was optimistic that Thai-Cambodian military relations would gradually improve.

He made the comment after Cambodian armed forces chief-of-staff Gen Ke Kimyan called on him at Supreme Command headquarters.

The Supreme Commander said Gen Ke Kimyan urged more military cooperation between the two countries to tackle problems along the common border.

"More military cooperation is needed to strengthen military ties between the two countries," the 59-year-old Supreme Commander said.

EAGA Meetings Conclude With Formal Agreements

BK0312154594 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 2 Dec 94 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Manado, KOMPAS (2 Dec)—The meetings from 28 to 30 November of senior officials and ministers of trade and industry of four countries—Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, which make up the East ASEAN Growth Area [BIMP-EAGA]—climaxed with the signing of six memoranda of understanding [MOUs] by 12 Philippine and Indonesian entrepreneurs. The MOUs will be valid 10 years, but the amount of investment is not yet known.

In a press statement at the end of the meeting, Hartarto, Indonesian coordinating minister for industry and trade and chairman of the ministerial meeting, disclosed that the consensus reached by the four countries emphasizes cooperation in tourism, fishing, sea transport, and air transport.

The four ministers, who witnessed the signing of the MOUs and spoke to the press on the last day of the meetings were Hartarto; Bruneian Minister of Industry and Primary Resources Pehin Datuk Abdul Rahman Taib; Tun Daim Zainuddin, Malaysian coordinating minister for growth triangle projects [title as published]; and Philippine Trade and Industry Secretary Rizalino S. Navarro.

The projects under the MOUs include tourism, agroindustry, telecommunications, traditional Minahasan houses, furniture, and various types of handicrafts.

According to Hartarto, the ministers also agreed to establish the BIMP-EAGA Business Council to accelerate economic growth in all countries in the East ASEAN Region.

The ministers received and discussed eight resolutions issued by the working groups, covering the development of cooperation in tourism, air transportation, sea transportation, shipping services, fishing, forestry, human resources, and communications.

The ministers also expressed their support for the MOU on laying the communications network in BIMP-EAGA, signed by the heads of Brunei's Telecommunications Department, Indonesia's P.T. [Company Limited] Indosat, Telekom Malaysia Berhad [Limited], and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone.

The next BIMP-EAGA ministerial meeting is scheduled for May 1995 in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. Before the meeting, the Philippines will ask the Asian Development Bank to conduct an investigative study [preceding two words in English] and finalize it within eight months.

Answering journalists' questions about the policies of loosening the protection index for industrial products adopted by the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei Darussalam, Hartarto said: "Indonesia will follow their steps eventually. We lowered the tariffs on a number of products from 80 percent to 30 percent only recently."

FDL-AP Urges Release of Aung San Suu Kyi

SK0212083294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0736 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 2 (YONHAP)—A resolution calling for the release of Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been adopted by the Forum of Democratic Leaders in the Asia Pacific (FDL-AP) hosted by the Kim Tae-chung Asia-Pacific Peace Foundation.

Meeting for the second day, the FDL-AP resolved to join the international community in supporting prompt implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions calling on Burma's State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) to free all political prisoners including Aung San Suu Kyi and restore democracy to Myanmar [Burma].

In a special speech read by former Philippine President Corazon Aquino, Aung San Suu Kyi said: "In the course of social and political changes, grass-roots' participation is the most vital issue in our times. That can be obtained by the establishment of a society in which human values are placed ahead of power and freedom ahead of control."

The international meeting, attended by some 1,500 dignitaries from home and abroad, agreed to another resolution on democracy in the region declaring that perfect democracy will come only through Asians' efforts while deciding to recognize the FDL-AP as a permanent body in Seoul to pursue that end.

Before closing the meeting Friday [2 December] evening, the forum introduced a rule stipulating that a plenary session will be held every two years and elect Kim Tae-chung and Mrs. Aquino as co-chairpersons.

Japan

'Strong Reactions' to A-Bomb Stamp Relayed

OW0612071994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0658 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 6 KYODO—Foreign Minister Yohei Kono said Tuesday [6 December] he has responded to a call by cabinet ministers to relay to U.S. leaders the feelings of Japanese people about a planned U.S. postage stamp depicting the mushroom cloud of the atomic bomb dropped over Hiroshima in World War II.

Kono, who told a press conference that he communicated the strong reactions to the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, said, "the United States is carefully considering Japan's reaction."

Kono also said that taking a recess from the current Diet session is "not impossible" but qualified that it did not mean he would directly meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Kono also indicated he would meet with U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale at the end of the Diet session.

Earlier the same day, Health and Welfare Minister Shoichi Ide said at a cabinet meeting that the planned stamp "has rubbed the Japanese people the wrong way, as Japan is the only country to be hit by atomic bombs."

Ide also said that action to convey the nation's view to the U.S. has "superseded the boundaries of all political factions" and urged Kono to communicate with U.S. leaders.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Shun Oide also voiced disappointment over the planned stamp, saying that "if the U.S. were to print the stamp, it would be tantamount to Japan issuing a stamp with the words 'Nuclear Weapons Violate International Law'."

Oide also said a survey by the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists revealed that at least 20 of 31 nations agreed that the use of nuclear weapons violates international law.

At the bottom of the stamp is printed the caption "Atomic Bombs Hasten War's End, August 1945."

Oide said it was "not necessary" for the U.S. to use those words on the stamp, reasoning that some may interpret it as an opinion in favor of the use of nuclear weapons.

A set of 10 stamps, including the controversial mushroom cloud stamp, reportedly will be on sale next year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Automakers Not To Expand U.S. Production

OW0612081194 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 5 Dec 94 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Japanese automakers plan to cease expansion of auto production in North America (the United States and Canada). Overseas production has been a cause of the Japanese auto industry's hollowing out. Japanese car makers' combined production in North America is expected to reach 2.75 million units in 1995. In 1997, their combined production capacity will be about 3 million units. However, it will remain flat thereafter because many Japanese automakers have no expansion plans, according to a NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN survey based on the companies' output plans. Because demand for new cars in the United States is expected to decrease gradually in the latter half of the nineties, Japanese car makers will not make further investment in North America. Instead, they will promote inroads into Asian markets, which are expected to expand in the future. This will mark a turning point in Japanese automakers' shift of production to North America since the beginning of the eighties, and it may have an impact on Japanese-U.S. auto trade friction.

According to the survey, Japanese makers' 1995 combined auto production in North America will be 2.73 million units. Meanwhile, combined production in 1995 is expected to increase 15-20 percent from the planned 1994 production to 2.7-2.8 million units.

Overall auto sales in North America have remained strong so far in 1994. Some Japanese manufacturers have increased local output to replace exports from Japan because of the strong yen. The North American plants of Nissan Motor Company and Honda Motor Company have been operating at full capacity.

The North American auto market is expected to expand about 5 percent in 1995 over 1994 to 16 million units, marking the fourth consecutive year of expansion. Nissan plans to replace exports of its "Sunny" model from Japan with production at its U.S. and Mexican plants. Honda expects North American demand for its cars to reach 640,000-650,000 units in 1995, exceeding its local production capacity of 610,000 units. Honda said: "We are considering increasing overtime, holiday operation, and raising the number of work shifts to three per day."

However, after 1996, only two companies have expansion plans. Toyota Motor Corporation will increase its Canadian plant's annual output to 200,000 units by 1997 from the current 85,000 units. Honda will also expand annual production at its Ohio and Canada plants to 720,000 units by 1997 from 610,000 units now. In 1997, Japanese automakers' combined production will be about 2.95 million units.

Car demand in the United States is expected to peak at 16.4 million units in 1996 and gradually fall thereafter. Thus, many Japanese car makers are not planning any production expansion in the United States. Japanese automakers have had poor business results because of the strong yen and intensifying competition at home, which has weakened their business strength. These factors necessitate their shifting managerial resources to

Asia. Also, Toyota and other companies hope to avert further "hollowing out" of car production in Japan.

However, if Japanese companies discontinue investment in North America, their locally produced models for the North American market will be in short supply around 1996-97, and the U.S. Big Three will grab a bigger market share with their low-priced new models. Also, if car demand in the United States continually expands, exports of cars from Japan and other Asian countries to the United States will increase and the ratio of combined local production by Japanese manufacturers to their overall sales will decrease. If this happens, Japanese-U.S. car trade friction might intensify again.

MITI Bureau Chief on Textile Import Restrictions

OW0612115494 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN in Japanese 5 Dec 94 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Tadashi Ezaki, chief of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry Consumer Goods Industries Bureau, by reporter Tomoko Yajima; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] has formulated domestic rules (guidelines) designed to invoke urgent restrictions on imports of textile goods to help the Japanese textile industry—which will probably suffer great damage from mass imports of textile goods from developing Asian nations—carry out structural reform. Prior to the guidelines' 5 December implementation, I asked Tadashi Ezaki, chief of MITI's Consumer Goods Industries Bureau, about the purpose of the rules and the possibility that import restrictions will be put into effect.

[Yajima] Why did not guidelines for urgent restrictions on textile imports exist in Japan before? Why have you worked out it now?

[Ezaki] In reality, we should have formulated such rules when we joined the Multinational Fiber Agreement [MFA] (in 1974). However, the percentage of imported goods [on the Japanese market] was small at that time and there was no possibility of imposing import restrictions. However, Japan's textile goods imports began to exceed exports in 1987, and the percentage of imported goods on the domestic market exceeded 50 percent in 1993. In view of this situation, import restrictions may be necessary.

[Yajima] Will not import restrictions run counter to Japan's position of upholding free trade?

[Ezaki] It is wrong to think restrictions will run counter to free trade. The basic idea of the rules we recently formulated is that they are rather emergency evacuation [kinkyu hinan] to protect free trade. If we leave mass imports as they are, some industrial types and companies will go bankrupt and be eliminated before the textile industry carries out structural reform. In this case, there will inevitably be demands that tight protectionist steps should be taken. From the standpoint of a long perspective, preventing such a situation will lead to adherence to the free trade principle.

Moreover, iron-bound conditions have been set for invoking import restrictions. Although the MFA only requires technical judgment, such as an increase in imports, our rules will also consider policy judgment, such as trade relations with partner nations. The import quotas will not be lower than those in the previous year, and we will guarantee leveling off or a little increase in imports. When all the rules are reviewed, we have not taken a step that will lead to violation of free trade.

[Yajima] How do you see the Japanese textile industry's future? How do you think the industry should cooperate with Asian nations?

[Ezaki] The Japanese industry should find a way out by exploring fields that are not the special domain of other Asian nations. Since Japan has advanced technology in the textile field, it can make distinguished products by making good use of it, or it can develop novel designs that cannot be imitated. I hope that Japan will become a foothold to explore new spheres of textiles and that products developed there will spread to Asian nations.

[Yajima] Is there any possibility that urgent import restrictions will actually be imposed?

[Ezaki] I cannot say anything about that because requests from the industry are preconditions to that end. However, since textile imports have been increasing too sharply in recent years, there is a possibility that the import restrictions will be put into effect. That is why we have worked out procedures for imposing them.

* Diplomat Views Importance of U.S. Relationship

952B0012A Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 7 Oct 94 p 4

[Article by Seiichi Kondo, counselor, Japanese Embassy in Washington: "Why the U.S.-Japan Relationship Is Important Now"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "framework" negotiations on Japan-U.S. trade have reached agreement except for some fields. This is all the more gratifying because for a long time these negotiations have been judged to be a thorn between Japan and the United States. But we must not lose sight of a great trend in Japan-U.S. relations which exists behind the negotiations.

According to public opinion polls, Japanese and American interest in each other is now gradually declining. Because at a time of groping for a new international order after the cold war, both countries must concentrate their efforts on "domestic politics" concerning various domestic reforms, and are compelled to have passive foreign policies. Moreover, behind this kind of "lack of interest," Americans' alienation from Japan and Japanese alienation from the United States has advanced slowly as a long-term trend. Public opinion polls are showing that Americans' degree of trust in and friendship toward Japan is declining gradually but steadily. In Japan a mood of "Who's afraid of the United States?" has spread because of the Clinton administration's hardline, impatient trade policy toward Japan and ineffectiveness in domestic and foreign policy.

This situation, which could also be called Japan and the United States "thinking past each other," originated for the following three reasons. The first is that, although the economic relationship rapidly become close, mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries did not catch up with it, and ignorance and misunderstanding of each other's culture are causing unnecessary friction. The second is that the economic power of Japan and the United States rapidly drew near to each other, so a subtle psychological distance has developed between the pursuer and the pursued. Mistrust of and a sense of threat from Japan, and dependence on and contempt for the United States are mixed together in a complicated manner. The third is that the so-called "adhesive of the cold war" has disappeared, and mutual dissatisfaction has surfaced, which until now had been repressed for the purpose of "Western solidarity."

Then, why is this "thinking past each other" a problem? Why is the Japan-U.S. relationship that important? It is no longer "for the purpose of opposing communism." "Because there is the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty" also is a reversal of roles, so it does not constitute an answer. Because at the same time that the United States overwhelmingly surpasses Japan in such material aspects as land, natural resources, and military power, in a full-fledged democracy it has the non-material items that are necessary in order to be "a country that is trusted." What I mean by non-material items that are necessary to be trusted are systems in which the rules of deciding policy and entering markets are clear and easily understood from outside, and are also open in regard to criticism; the result is that it gives to other countries a feeling of confidence that the United States is a country whose actions can be predicted because it is equipped with a capacity for self-correction, so it is difficult for it to make a big mistake. We must not have our attention absorbed by the appearance of the current administration, which must confront Japan strongly on the aspect of trade because it is fighting hard to realize domestic reforms, and overlook the overall strength that U.S. society possesses.

At a time when each country is groping for the proper nature of new international relations after the cold war, Japan probably should renew its alliance with the United States as the axis of its foreign policy in order to give the fullest play to its strength and not take the wrong course. No other option will make up for Japan's defects and maximize the national interest. Furthermore, by Japan and the United States, which belong to different cultural areas, cooperating and making mutually complementary contributions to the world, it will be possible to avoid American political scientist S. Huntington's so-called "clash of cultures."

Now, when the "adhesive of the cold war" has disappeared, to Japan and the United States, for whom, unlike the broad European-U.S. relationship which covers such things as race, culture, history, and religion, the center is an economic relationship in which cooperation and competition are commingled, a relationship of trust and alliance can certainly not be maintained automatically. As is clear from the fact that the recent novel *Debt of Honor* became a best seller following after the earlier *Rising Sun*, there exists among Americans a deeply rooted sense of alienness and threat in regard to the Japanese. In order to overcome this it is necessary for both sides to consciously deepen mutual understanding and strive for self-reform while learning from "differences." This will not be easy, but the value of the Japan-U.S. alliance is great enough to be fully worth this kind of effort.

The "framework" negotiations fortunately reached agreement. But Japan and the United States will probably also often face differences of opinion in the future about individual policies. There will be things on which they can agree through negotiation, and also things on which they cannot. We should not wax happy or sad at each and every result, but keep the value of the alliance in mind, put a brake on "thinking past each other," and strive to rebuild the Japan-U.S. alliance. Only by doing that can we most effectively put to use in the future the lessons of 50 years ago and the efforts and sacrifices of the Japanese people during the last 50 years.

Tokyo, Washington Urged To Respect WTO Functions

OW0612074494 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 4 Dec 94 Morning Edition p 3

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN editorial]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is certain that the World Trade Organization (WTO) will be established in January next year.

Following congressional approval of enforcement bills for GATT Uruguay Round agreements, the United States is expected to ratify the Uruguay Round accords, including one on creating the WTO, as early as this week. Japan is also expected to ratify the accords this week. It is expected that the House of Councillors will approve the enforcement bills, which the House of Representatives has already passed by this week. Such moves by the Unites States and Japan have ensured the WTO's establishment.

The WTO will replace GATT, which has supported the post-World War II global trade system, and play a leading role in promoting trade liberalization in the 21st century. We welcome the WTO's being established as scheduled, and hope that European Union (EU) member countries will speedily take domestic proceedings necessary to ratify it.

While GATT deals only with trade in goods, WTO regulations on international trade cover a much wider area, such as trading in services and intellectual property. The WTO plans to gradually lower and abolish tariffs on manufactured products and minerals, and reduce protective measures for agricultural products as well. At the same time, the WTO will be stronger in handling trade disputes.

What we are concerned with now is the possibility that WTO functions may be weakened by U.S. congressional approval of a plan to create a dispute arbitration and examination committee [DAEC] and protectionist bills. Congress passed those bills with the GATT pact.

The DAEC would examine cases in which the WTO rules against the United States in arbitration disputes, such as dumping. If it determines that the "ruling is unfair," the DAEC will call on the U.S. President to restart negotiations with the WTO. If it finds three unfair rulings in five years, the United States will withdraw from the WTO after obtaining congressional and presidential approval.

With an aim of bolstering existing unilateral measures against trade partners, the United States has also passed strengthened antidumping bills, Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act (on presidential punitive measures against unfair trade practices), and more wide-ranging antitrust policies.

Such U.S. moves run counter to the WTO's goal of promoting trade liberalization through international cooperation. We strongly call on the U.S. Government and Congress not to threaten WTO functions by inconsiderate invocation of those laws.

In Japan, a key issue in Diet deliberations is the agricultural package aimed at dealing with the rice market's partial opening, and other changes brought about by the WTO pact. The total appropriation for this package is 6.01 trillion yen.

At a Lower House special committee, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama made remarks that could be interpreted as substantial permission to allot necessary funds to those measures separate from the ordinary agricultural budget. At its plenary session, the Lower House also approved a resolution urging the government give special consideration to allocating funds to this agricultural package.

It is necessary to build up the agricultural infrastructure to cope with trade liberalization in agricultural products in the 21st century. However, in view of the present serious financial situation, a huge budget separate from the ordinary budget should not be allocated out of political considerations or just to improve people's support for the cabinet. Prime Minister Murayama must clearly state his views on this package during Upper House deliberations on WTO-related bills starting early this week.

Japan also has decided on emergency restriction guidelines on textile imports based on the multifiber arrangements (MFA). The guidelines will take effect 5 December. The MFA was created by GATT and approved by the international community. However, the WTO plans to abolish it step by step in 10 years. These restrictions should be carefully implemented so that they do not serve as protectionist measures.

Polish President Arrives for Official Visit

OW0612115294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1133 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 6 KYODO—Polish President Lech Walesa arrived in Japan on Tuesday [6 December] evening for a four-day visit and talks with Japanese political and business leaders.

Walesa, the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize winner, will meet Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of the House of Councillors and business leaders during his stay.

The 51-year-old Polish president and his wife Danuta are also scheduled to meet Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko.

High on the agenda during Walesa's talks with Japanese leaders is the resumption of yen-denominated loans to Poland which have been frozen since 1991, according to Japanese officials.

Japanese Government sources have hinted at the resumption of loans for environmental purposes, because some countries, including the United States and Germany, have already resumed their loan programs.

Under consideration is a loan of 20 billion yen to help Poland fund a water purification project in a river that has been polluted by a coal mine in southern Poland, the sources said.

Japan extended a total of 21 billion yen in January 1990 to help it pay for imported farm machinery and industrial raw materials, but ceased further loans along with other countries when Poland's external debt swelled as a result of the liquidation of a series of state-run enterprises.

The group of seven industrialized nations is writing off 50 percent of the external debt held by the public sector in Poland, but international private banks are still negotiating with Poland over debt payments.

Walesa told Japanese reporters late last month that he is dissatisfied with Japanese business activity in Poland, citing the lack of regular air flights between the two countries as an example.

Government sources have indicated that Japan and Poland will sign an aviation treaty during Walesa's stay in Japan.

Japan and Poland have historically had good relations, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Recent events such as Poland's proposing a resolution on the deletion of the "enemy state" clause in the UN Charter and Polish support for Japan's bid to become a permanent member of the Security Council reflect such good relations, they said.

Japanese officials will express in talks with Walesa support for Poland's efforts for democratization and transition to a market-oriented economy, they said.

The trip will be Walesa's second to Japan, following one in 1983 when he led Solidarity Union.

The Polish president is scheduled to hold a press conference Thursday and will leave Japan on Friday morning.

'No Progress' in Cellular Phone Talks With EU

OW0312041294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0329 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geneva, Dec. 2 KYODO—Japan and the European Union (EU) held talks Friday [2 December] on a Japan-U.S. trade agreement on cellular phones that was reached in March, but no progress was reported.

The talks came at the request of the EU under General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) rules as Brussels claims the Japan-U.S. agreement favors U.S. companies and discriminates against European suppliers.

A Japanese trade official taking part in the talks said the two sides will decide later whether to continue the talks.

Under the agreement, Motorola Inc. of the United States was given vastly enhanced access to the lucrative Tokyo-Nagoya corridor.

It also calls on Nippon Ido Tsushin Corp. of Japan to build 159 base stations for Motorola-system cellular phones by late 1995, a year and a half earlier than Ido's original plan.

Japanese officials have said the deal is fair and does not contravene GATT rules.

Tokyo To Seek EU Tariff Cuts as Compensation

OW0612080194 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 5 Dec 94 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] It was recently learned that Austria and two other countries scheduled to join the European Union (EU) would raise their tariffs on some products to conform to EU common tariffs. The Japanese Government has decided to begin negotiations with the EU before the end of the year to urge the union take compensatory measures. Believing that the tariff rate changes will be disadvantageous to Japan's export industry, the government will ask the EU to lower its common tariffs as compensation.

The three countries scheduled to join the EU in January are Austria, Sweden, and Finland. They plan to conform their tariffs to the EU's upon joining the union. Because they generally have lower tariffs than the EU, they will raise tariffs on many items, including industrial products. For example, the tariff on passenger cars is 6.2 percent in Sweden and 5.3 percent in Finland. These rates will be raised to 10 percent. Also, the tariff on videocassette recorders, which is now 5.3 percent in Sweden and 5.5 percent in Finland, will be increased to 14 percent.

Austria's tariff on passenger cars is as high as 29 percent. This will be lowered drastically when the country joins the EU. However, its tariff on semiconductors will be raised from the current 1 percent to 7.2 percent, and its tariff on trucks will be increased from 13 to 20 percent. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry thinks: "EU expansion may be disadvantageous to Japan's export industry." Thus, it decided to demand compensation.

In accordance with GATT, the government hopes to begin negotiations with the EU before the end of the year to seek compensation. It will soon notify the European commission and GATT secretariat of the start of negotiations. If the new EU members raise tariffs, there will be an increase in EU tariff revenue. Tokyo will seek EU common tariff cuts as compensation for the expected increase in revenue.

The United States has been negotiating with the EU since October over compensation for a tariff increase. However, the negotiations reportedly have had rough going because of EU assertion that "if you study the planned tariff increase by the new EU members from various angles, you will know that the increase will have little impact on the United States."

Aid Approved To Dismantle Slovakia Nuclear Plants

OW0212122794 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 1 Dec 94 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] As a measure for securing the safety of aging nuclear power plants in the former Soviet Union and East European regions, the Science and Technology Agency [STA] approved a policy to give Slovakia technological support in scrapping reactors at nuclear plants in that country. The agency will assist Slovakia in preparing plans for scrapping reactors starting next fiscal year by utilizing technologies developed by the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute [JAERI]. The budget for the plan is estimated to reach several hundred million yen. The issue of dismantling nuclear reactors at nuclear power plants is a headache and a common problem for various countries. This will be Japan's first international cooperation in this area. Japan plans to expand its assistance to scrapping nuclear reactors built by the former Soviet Union; the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has pointed out the dangerous nature of such reactors.

The first reactor, which will be subject to Japanese assistance, is Slovakia's Bohunice A-1 nuclear power plant (heavy water gas-cooled reactor with the capability of generating 144,000 kilowatts of electricity). It began operations in 1972 and had an accident in 1977, during which its fuel system was damaged. The reactor was shut down in 1979. It has been said that there are similarities between this reactor and the Chernobyl reactors.

Noting that leaving the reactor as it is poses a security problem, the Slovakian Government approved a policy to seal the reactor and its used nuclear fuel storage pools. Although a partial dismantling of the reactor has already begun, the Slovakian Government has called on Japan to cooperate in disposing of radioactive wastes and treating people exposed to radiation during the dismantling process. Reportedly, very serious contaminations have already taken place and there are some areas where people are forbidden from entering.

Europe and the United States have experiences in dismantling nuclear reactors at nuclear power plants. In Japan, JAERI has developed equipment and techniques for dismantling nuclear reactors. The dismantling of the experimental power reactor "JPDR" [expansion unknown] started in 1986 at Tokai-mura in Ibaraki Prefecture. The work, which includes the removal and decontamination of a contaminated reactor case, has entered its final stage.

During the 1992 Munich summit, an agreement was reached on improving an international support system for the safety of 25 Soviet nuclear reactors in the former Soviet Union and East European regions. A plan for dismantling some of the reactors has been incorporated into the agreement. Accordingly, Japan contributed money in support of the fund last year. However, not much progress have been made in mapping out concrete support plans.

The international support plan does not include the Bohunice A-1 nuclear power plant. However, the STA explains that Japan's support for the plan to scrap this reactor will provide an impetus for international support. At the same time, it will provide Japan with a great deal of information to assist in preparation plans for dismantling other nuclear reactors, including the Japan Atomic Power Tokai Plant's gas reactor, whose structure is similar to that of the Bohunice A-1 nuclear power plant.

The STA and Slovakia will start exchanging information in fiscal 1995. The agency will provide Slovakia with know how regarding nuclear reactor dismantlement through such actions as accepting Slovakian technicians for training, dispatching Japanese technicians, and disclosing database. Plans for concrete steps in Japan's support measure will be prepared by fiscal 1999. If the process for preparing the plans goes smoothly, Slovakia will be entrusted with the task of performing actual dismantlement work. With regard to scrapping the reactor, it has been said that the STA wants to give the former Soviet Union and countries in the East European region a chance to study the dismantlement procedures by holding study sessions.

According to the STA, Slovakia recently sounded out Japan on the possibility of cooperating in dismantling and disposing of two other Soviet-made light water reactors and Japan is studying it.

SDF Troops' Achievements in Rwanda Hailed

OW0512142894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1339 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Goma, Zaire, Dec. 5 KYODO—The commander of a Japanese Self-Defense Forces (SDF) contingent helping Rwandan refugees in camps in neighboring Zaire on Monday [5 December] hailed the troops' achievements in their first independent relief action abroad.

"We were able to create a climate of cooperation with nongovernmental organizations experienced in relief activities," Mitsunobu Kamimoto said at a news conference at the SDF camp in the border town of Goma, northeastern Zaire.

The SDF mission will wrap up some three months of relief activities and pull out of Zaire by Dec. 20.

A first batch of 120 soldiers is scheduled to leave on Dec. 15, followed by a group of 140 on Dec. 20. The SDF personnel provided medical treatment in refugee camps and local hospitals, distributed water rations and helped fight the spread of disease.

In addition to their original assignment, the troops also came to the rescue of personnel and saw to emergency transport for refugees who sustained injuries in skirmishes within the camps.

All these activities "can be hailed" Kamimoto said, adding that the training of local hospital staff in modern techniques went smoothly, too.

Asked where nongovernmental organizations and SDF activities differ, he pointed to organization, know-how and equipment.

He also defended the carrying of weapons by the troops. "Weapons are not only helpful if one enters an area where violence is likely to occur, but also to keep one's own feelings (of fear) under control," he said.

Ending on a tone of self-criticism, Kamimoto admitted that the SDF lacked linguistic ability. "We were able to understand basic things through intuition and sympathy, but we were really helped a lot by Foreign Ministry personnel," he said.

Tokyo Looking for New Roles

OW0512115094 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 4 Dec 94 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The Self-Defense Forces [SDF] are going to withdraw from Zaire at the end of this month upon completion of their missions to assist Rwandan refugees. Regarding Japan's role in Rwandan aid after the SDF withdrawal, the government is considering "appropriate burden-sharing" within the framework of official development assistance (ODA) programs. But the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] is strongly calling for Japan's continued political roles to make the most of achievements of the SDF dispatch.

On 22 November, informal working-level talks were held at the U.S. Department of State in Washington. Under the U.S. initiative, 12 nations and organizations, including Japan, the UK, France, Germany, Tunisia, the European Union (EU), and the United Nations participated in the talks. The members of the multinational team discussed measures for securing safety in refugee camps and for assisting the new Rwandan Government.

After the SDF withdrawal, MOFA intends to expand economic aid to Rwanda to accelerate the return of refugees and reconstruction of the nation. Yet the new administration, led by the minority Tutsi group, is still confronted with the majority Hutu group, which led the previous government. Under such circumstances, it is difficult for Japan to extend full-scale economic support to the nation because Japan's ODA guideline rules out aid to nations in war or without a satisfactory system of democracy.

MOFA is currently seeking "positive roles for Japan in international conferences on stability in Rwanda." As a tangible measure, a senior MOFA official said "It may be possible that Japan will act as a mediator between the pro-Tutsi United States and pro-Hutu France."

On the other hand, some quarters in MOFA say "Japan does not have to take the initiative in this issue because it is unfamiliar with the African situation," and "Japan may be used for a U.S. strategy to back the new Rwandan administration." Africa is still too far from Japan, and Japan does not yet have a full-fledged diplomatic policy to deal with the distant region. The government's Rwanda aid policy needs to give answers to these questions.

Ex-Im Bank Urged To Cancel Philippine Loans

OW0512145094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0807 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 5 KYODO—Opponents of a coal power plant to be built on the Philippine island of Luzon with Japanese money will run a week-long campaign in Japan to stop the project which they say dislocates people and destroys the environment, organizers said Monday [5 December].

The group, two representatives for the local residents, a lawyer and one member of an environmental group, will also urge Japan's Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im bank) to rescind the 150 million dollar loan it has pledged for the 525 million dollar plant.

Another 200 million dollars will come from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Reclamation of land for the coal-fired thermal plant in Masinloc, located on the South China Sea coast, some 200 kilometers northwest of Manila, started in June.

Mitsubishi Corp. has won the bid for the project, which consists of the construction of two plants with a total output of 600 megawatts for the Philippines' National Power Corporation. Construction will last through 1998.

The Masinloc activists, who are supported by a number of U.S. and international environmental organizations such as Rainforest Action Network and Greenpeace, claim Mitsubishi does not plan to install a costly desulfurization unit that would reduce air pollution.

They also said residents living near the site who refuse to sell their land will eventually be evicted, since 100 percent land acquisition is a prerequisite for releasing the loans, and that the environmental impact of the plant could endanger a coral reef and a fish sanctuary.

During their stay, the Masinloc protesters, who arrived in Japan on Sunday, will hold symposiums on the link between Japanese foreign aid and environmental destruction with one scheduled for Tokyo on Wednesday, another in Osaka on Thursday and a third in Niigata on Sunday.

The group will also meet with Ex-Im Bank representatives. One bank official said, "We hope we can obtain understanding by discussing the project tenaciously, although the investment has not been officially decided yet."

Professor Urges Promoting Disarmament in Asia

OW0212111394 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 13 Nov 94 Morning Edition p 11

[By Takehiko Kamom, professor of international politics at Tokyo University]

[FBIS Translated Text] The period between the end of the 1960's to the early 1970's, when this report was prepared, was a turning point in Japan-U.S. relations. Progress was being made at negotiations on Okinawa's reversion and Japan was going through a psychological change. Japan wished to get away from U.S. protection and create relations on equal terms. Moreover, Japan had a desire to become a rival to the United States. This was a period during which Japan began to enjoy economic prosperity and to gain confidence in itself.

The report states that Japan investigated the possibility of developing nuclear policies similar to those of France by arming itself with nuclear weapons for political purposes in the event the international security environment changed. Japan did this because the security situation surrounding Japan was very tough, as noted by the threat of China and the Soviet Union and tension on the Korean peninsula.

Under such circumstances, the report's conclusion was the right choice. It noted that Japan "will not have nuclear weapons" on the major precondition that Japan would continue to be under the United States' "nuclear umbrella." The three non-nuclear principles actually consists of "three-plus-one" principles; the strategy of deterring Japan from owning nuclear weapons is included in it. This stand notes that there is no need for Japan to arm itself with nuclear weapons and that the United States would feel more at ease if Japan relied on its "nuclear umbrella."

But why were such extremely important studies carried out in secret? Why could not they disclose their conclusions? One becomes suspicious because that was the time when close attention was being paid to Japan's security policies. One also becomes suspicious as to whether or not the people involved in preparing the report received direction or support from the United States.

Several important issues still remain unsettled.

First, Japan has been unable to give up the option of owning nuclear weapons all this time. Japan maintains the stance that it will review the option when the "nuclear umbrella" precondition collapses.

Moreover, the report lacked a viewpoint aimed at forming a clear view of changes in the international environment, or how the "nuclear umbrella" conditions would change in the future. As a matter of fact, U.S. policy toward China changed and Japan-Chinese relations began to improve immediately after the report was prepared.

At that time, other countries were concerned about the possibility that Japan might arm itself with nuclear weapons. Even today, they still feel this way. In 1992, the Aspen Research Institute of the United States prepared a report, which stated that Japan has a choice of either becoming a "single major power [tandoku taikoku]" or a global civilian power. The United States thinks it would be a grave mistake to allow Japan to become a single major power because it could be linked to Japan's nuclear weapons armament.

It is believed that Japan's three non-nuclear principles allowed the United States to bring nuclear weapons into Japan. In reality, they consists of "two principles." It is possible that if such a situation continues, other countries may think Japan "does not care about violating the rules." We need to review Japan's political system, which kept the irresponsible system alive. Now that the Cold War is over, some people are of the view that there is a high possibility of nuclear weapons spreading in Asia. Not only should Japan strictly abide by the three nonproliferation principles, but it should also play the role of pole bearer in creating the right environment, including efforts to make Asia free of nuclear weapons, for better security in Asia. We need to sign an agreement for controlling military buildup and disarmament by involving China and the Korean peninsula, in particular. While keeping in mind the need to make international contributions under the peace Constitution, Japan is urged to select policies as a nation of the people.

Debate on Administrative Reform Continues

Shusei Tanaka Stresses Need

OW0612062094 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 3 Dec 94 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Shusei Tanaka, acting representative of Sakigake [Harbinger], gave an interview to SANKEI SHIMBUN on 2 December. In the interview, Tanaka stressed the need for cooperation between the ruling and opposition parties to promote administrative reform. Also, he noted dissolution of existing parties, including the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], is a shortcut for full- scale reorganization of Japanese political circles.

[SANKEI SHIMBUN] When the government was determining members of the advisory Administrative Reform Council, you strongly insisted on appointments from the private sector. What was the reason for your rigid attitude?

[Tanaka] As I told Prime Minister Murayama, I believe "the lineup of the watchdog mechanism is a very important factor in demonstrating to the people the prime minister's resolve to carry out administrative reform." The primary duty of the Administrative Reform Council is to supervise the administrative branch. If this job is entrusted to bureaucrats, it would be like allowing students to supervise examinations. As the government has to obtain Diet approval for the advisory panel's lineup, I could not make concessions easily.

[SANKEI SHIMBUN] In your opinion, what is necessary for carrying out administrative reform?

[Tanaka] Administrative reform is a public demand, and this must not be linked to political struggles. In other words, "both the ruling and opposition parties must devote themselves to administrative reform." Sakigake is finalizing definite plans for administrative reform, and I hope all other parties work out their own plans.

[SANKEI SHIMBUN] What is the significance of starting administrative reform at this moment? Can it be carried out successfully?

[Tanaka] Not all members of the LDP and SDPJ are showing a positive attitude toward administrative reform. But the two parties now have the responsibility to run the government as ruling parties. In this sense, it is an historical chance to carry out the task.

[SANKEI SHIMBUN] Could you tell me the other urgent political tasks in addition to administrative reform?

[Tanaka] We have to map out a new economic plan as soon as possible because the former Miyazawa administration's five-year program for livelihood superpower is still in effect. The government has decided to raise the consumption tax rate to 5 percent. Japan's farming industries should also be reformed after rice market liberalization. In addition, we must grapple with demands for deregulation and for 630-trillion-yen in public investment. The Japanese economy is entering a new phase, and there are still concerns over the prolonged economic slump and unemployment. Prime Minister Murayama should hammer out a unique economic plan.

[SANKEI SHIMBUN] You recently said dissolution of the LDP and SDPJ is favorable for the future reorganization of Japanese political circles. What is your true intention?

[Tanaka] When political circles are reorganized into an ideal, politicians should join them based on their own political beliefs. Political parties organized under the 1955 regime [the LDP and SDPJ] have members with various opinions packed into one place. Politicians should determine their course of action as individuals, but as a matter of fact that is quite difficult. To carry out (an ideal regrouping of political circles), dissolution of the LDP and SDPJ is the best measure. I do not really believe a tie-up between the LDP and SDPJ is a constructive framework for Japanese politics.

[SANKEI SHIMBUN] The SDPJ and New Democratic League call themselves "liberals," and Sakigake is also called "a liberal party." What is the difference between Sakigake and the SDPJ?

[Tanaka] I have high regard for Former Prime Minister Tanzan Ishibashi as a liberal politician. I have no specific objection to people calling me a liberal. But, frankly speaking, I do not really know what people's definition of a liberal is. So I have never called myself a liberal.

[SANKEI SHIMBUN] You raised an objection to a report in SANKEI SHIMBUN's 24 November edition on your remark: "Human rights are important, but I attach greater importance to the imperial family," is that right?

[Tanaka] I never made such a thoughtless remark. Nothing is more important than the concept of human rights, welfare, and democracy. In my remark on respect for the imperial family, I just referred to a natural feeling as a Japanese citizen. But I think I should be more careful because today's politicians tend to use unclear words to steer clear of political controversy.

[SANKEI SHIMBUN] What is your stance toward an early lower house dissolution and general election?

[Tanaka] We should not create a political vacuum at this moment, and we should take time to let the new election system take root among voters. In consideration for voters, we had better work out outlines of political regrouping before the elections. Voters are deeply disappointed with the lack of new-face politicians, and, to comply with public expectations, we should have a reasonably long preparation period. Taking this into consideration, the next general election should be held in 1997, at the earliest.

Officials Discuss Reform

OW0512155994 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 21 Nov 94 Morning Edition p 5

["Dialogue" between Koichi Kato, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Research Commission on the Tax System, and Hiroshi Kato, chairman of the government's Tax Commission; first of a series of two "Dialogues on Administrative Reform"; date and place not given; first paragraph is NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The enactment of administrative reforms, an official pledge made by Prime Minister Murayama, has reached a stage where no further delay can be tolerated. The final reports on the status reviews of government-funded special public corporations and the complete five year plan to institute deregulation are due by the end of the current fiscal year. Moreover, each separate ministry and agency is to submit an interim report on restructuring the special public corporations under its purview by 25 November. What administrative reforms does the Murayama administration hope to instate? How will the "impenetrable" wall of bureaucratic resistance to a loss of authority and organizational retrenchment be torn down? We asked a politician representing the coalition government, whose capability to enact reform is under fire, to discuss these issues with a representative of the reform movement. The first dialogue features Koichi Kato, chairman of the LDP Policy Research Council, and Hiroshi Kato, chairman of the government's Tax Commission.

Rising Expectations

[Koichi Kato] Over the past four months, we have focused on building a consensus on issues such as the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, the Self-Defense Forces [SDF], and the consumption tax. Now we feel there is a need to grapple with the key issue of administrative reform. Behind this line of thought is the fact that, primarily during the debates over the taxation system, we discovered that the public wants to pursue administrative reforms to the end. Other questions are: Given the way the government is organized, can it respond to the new international order, and has the government simply become too big?

During the LDP's long-running exclusive domination of the reins of government, it incorporated many demands of the opposition parties, including the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ]. In a way, we mutated into a large social democratic government. Perhaps at this point we should now move toward being a more creative society (with less government).

[Hiroshi Kato] Behind the start of the Ad Hoc Commission on Administrative Reform, chaired by Toshio Doko, was the need to determine how to more effectively use public assets in the face of internationalization and the information age. With Japan still in the midst of prolonged debates, I am seriously concerned that, should Japan continue its present course, our survival in the 21st century would be forfeit.

My first reason is that Japan is 10 years behind the United States in the realm of multimedia products. My second reason involves airports. Kansai International Airport will not be completed until the year 2007. However, South Korea, Singapore, and Hong Kong will complete their new airport facilities by the year 2000. So it is likely Japan will lag behind in this arena also. Third is the rapid aging of society. We have to prepare, but we do not have the money. Despite there being any number of things the government must do in preparation, a good many people in Japan are doubtful that the government will even seriously tackle these issues.

In this sense I consider the government's resolution of the recent consumption tax controversy most encouraging. Of course, I have to wonder if there is a more palatable means of achieving the same ends than the two-stage system of reducing taxes. However, the point here is that the LDP and the SDPJ were able to combine forces to effect a rise (in the consumption tax) to offset revenues lost from the total effect of tax reductions. What we never imagined was possible actually worked.

Whatever the case, the consumption tax hike, which really needed to be raised to 7 percent, was slashed to 5 percent. The way I see it, the government has in effect promised that the 2 percent discrepancy will be offset though the instatement of administrative reforms.

[K. Kato] I think the reality is that momentum for administrative reform has declined over the past two or three years. During that period, we were carrying out political reforms. However, the Diet is sure to pass the constituency redistricting bill soon, so I think it would be fair to say that the main issues from here on will be administrative reform, deregulation, and decentralization. I would like to send a message in this spirit to Mr. Eiji Suzuki, the deceased chairman of the Administrative Reform Council. [sentence as published]

[H. Kato] Mr. Suzuki passed away after falling ill while delivering a lecture to students at my school (Keio University). If Mr. Suzuki had not been the chairman of the Administrative Reform Council, he might have lived a little longer. That is the extent to which administrative reform can take over one's life. Put a different way, it was communicated to the students that administrative reform can come only of the sacrifices of many.

[K. Kato] I think there are two factors that will have positive effects on administrative reform. First is the LDP experience as an opposition party. During the LDP's longterm single-party domination of the government, the organizations of the central bureaucracies were like part of the same family to us, as if our destinies were forever intertwined. Now, after having been out of power for about a year, we have rejoined only to see those same people in a more objective light. Now they seem more like familiar kindred. In other words, we see the bureaucracy in a more objective light. This is significant.

We still believe maybe 70 to 80 percent of what we hear from the bureaucrats, but we are going to be taking closer looks at 10 or 20 percent of what they say. Especially since we of the LDP were once part of the same family, we know all their in's and out's, what is real and what is facade. This is a powerful weapon.

The second factor is that in our work on tax reform this time, we tackled the issue of revenue sources head-on. If we politicians had again simply avoided the unsavory portions of this issue, we would have deserved to be called yago [an alliance of convenience]. I think the choice was a bitter pill for the SDPJ to swallow.

However, there is a widening sense that now we have thrown down the glove; it is important for those of us in politics to act responsibly to formulate logical policies, and not to react according to the mood of the moment. The LDP and SDPJ are now able to hold dispassionate debate. If we raise the share of the burden the national treasury bears in the pension plan, the offset will be a rise in the consumption tax. If we want to avoid the effect of a heavier tax burden, we must streamline and reduce government.

Up Against the "Wall" of the Bureaucracy

[H. Kato] In administrative reform, you deal with people who try to cover up information, so you have to bring the facts to light. I think the conditions for this are now in place. First and foremost is the forthcoming establishment of the Administrative Reform Committee. Second, the Administrative Procedure Law took effect in October. The third condition is the Freedom of Information Act. If this is instated, concealing information will be unwise.

The fourth reason is the existence of the administrative counselors. There are some 5,000 such counselors in Japan, but no one knows where to find one. It will be vital to provide the conditions which permit these counselors to play greater roles. Finally, what if we revived the Court of Administrative Litigation which was eliminated in the postwar era? The Freedom of Information act would be used to ascertain whether someone had, in sumo terms, "stepped out of bounds." If that were insufficient, then the case could be taken before the Court of Administrative Litigation for judgment. I think this would also mean that some negative aspects of Japan's bureaucracy would be brought out into the open. Whatever, it is my impression the government is ready to take on the task of administrative reform.

[K. Kato] We shall make every effort not to betray your expectations. Our thinking is that, to avoid derailing the interest and passion for administrative reform, we have to immediately do whatever can be done, meaning "tomorrow" where possible. An example: To further ties and networking between the various ministries and agencies, a proposal will soon be presented to the cabinet seeking approval to make service with at least two other ministries a mandatory prerequisite for promotion to section chief.

However, in each case we hope to have active participation by the general public in the discussions of each of the various issues. One prime example is the system of mandatory automobile safety checks. Basically, the United States has no system of mandatory automotive safety checks in place, but is that safe? Or has Japan gone overboard? These are questions I would like to see taken up in the Diet and in the press.

[H. Kato] Regarding the system of automobile checks we have in place, during the Second Ad Hoc Commission on Administrative Reform, we proposed that the term covered by a thorough check be extended to five years. The proposal was doused with cold water when the only change approved was three year coverage for new cars. There are LDP senior statesmen with longstanding ties to the automobile safety check industries, and it was supposedly their influence that limited coverage changes to three years for new vehicles.

[K. Kato] It is true that the SDPJ's and LDP's ties to industry can complicate matters. However, the LDP has many members who are in favor of "small government".

Let us take, for example, the argument that a public funding institution like the Shoko Chukin Bank should be operated by the private sector. This government financing agency was established to use public funding to providing loans to parties unable to secure financing on commercial markets. In eliminating such services, it is necessary to understand and accept that you will have to cut support to small and medium-sized enterprises. The problem is that we all have to determine together when what we are saying simply goes too far, or we are being too protective when taking up specific questions.

[H. Kato] Does that not mean, effectively, that there is no way to come out with a (concrete) answer? During the Second Ad Hoc Commission on Administrative Reform, I myself raised the issue of public financial institutions, but in holding discussions, what happens is you see the kind of reasoning you just talked about. If you say, "Well if that is the way it is, we just have to accept it" and leave things at that, you come up with the conclusion that you leave the organization just the way it is.

[K. Kato] No, you must not give up on this. Both parties are going to show up at the table with 10 ton trucks just loaded with excuses. But you have to keep working; if you do not have what its takes to reach conclusions and make decisions, you will never have administrative reform.

[H. Kato] All right. An assault on the exempted status of special corporations is like assaulting a well fortified castle. When you launch your attack on the castle, any direct attack on the central tower of the castle will result in the enemy putting up fierce, unremitting resistance. So you first assault the towers surrounding the center. In today's terms, the relaxation of regulations is the tower we need to assault. Next, you lay siege to the castle and wear down their men. The enemy becomes aware of the danger and within a month, will sally forth to do battle. You beat him back but you do not chase after him. Another month and he comes out again. You beat him back again. And at that point, there will be people inside the castle who will start to say, "It might be better if we stopped the fighting". You get information from these insiders and demolish your enemy.

I used exactly this strategy to deal with the old Japan National Railways [JNR] and with the old NTT [Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation] monopoly. My assault on the JNR forces came in the form of a Ministry of Finance refusal to further subsidize the JNR's deficit. JNR was stymied. You will have to give the special public corporations a taste of this same medicine. Specifically, an annual 2 trillion yen in support funding is granted to the special public corporations. Cut that 2 trillion by half, or give full warning that you will call a halt to such funding within one year. Or set other such targets.

[K. Kato] That certainly is a blunt, no holds barred view, but mine is slightly different. I think that what the bureaucracy is doing is basically on track. If I did not think this way, I think my lack of trust would result in an atmosphere of perpetual conflict. However, simply because I subjectively consider 70 percent of what the bureaucrats do to be on the right track, that still leaves 20 percent which derives from inertia, and a final 10 percent which is just riding the fence. It is up to us in politics to uncover and correctly point out those portions.

If you ask the mid-level and younger staffers of the bureaucracy, they will tell you there are certain aspects that would not stand up to harsh scrutiny. But then again, neither can they themselves say much about those areas. But if you target such areas, you hear, "Well, maybe he is right, this is not such a good thing. That reform committee member, that politician, is pretty good." And this is what we face in dealing with the special public corporations: How we will sort out and divide exactly these aspects of the issues.

The Ever-Present Wall of "Politics"

[H. Kato] The government (in response to the Uruguay Round agreements) decided to set aside 6 trillion yen for agricultural subsidies. In comparison to the quite logical resolution to concurrently lower and raise separate taxes put forth by the cabinet, in my eyes, the decision on agricultural subsidies is quite illogical. I think the people are asking themselves which is the real [Murayama] cabinet. In other words, people are pointing out that the current cabinet is vastly expanding the bullet train service networks and, at the same time, is using public monies to build more airports. That is the kind of thing that causes people to say, "Well, they say they are going to work on administrative reform, but who knows if that is true."

[K. Kato] The 6 trillion yen in agricultural subsidies has come under heavy fire. However, the crucial issue here is that in the future, rice farmers must expand the scope of their operations. We made provisions so they will not find themselves tied down just trying to repay loans. We would like you to understand that this is part of the government plan to grapple with the issue of abolishing the food control system. This is an issue of gargantuan proportions, like a yokozuna [sumo grand champion].

Overall, the policies of the Government of Japan are meant to take you by the hand and help you walk. I would really like to do something about that. The main problem is that any time there is a problem in Japan, the first thing anyone says is, "So what is the government doing about it?" A good example of this is the regulation of golf courses. There is no way you can be assured of playing time at an 18-hole golf course that has signed up 3,000 members. But the immediate cry was, what are the government overseers doing? So the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] stepped in, formulated some laws and established a chartered corporation to control such matters. So where the relaxation of regulations or administrative reform is concerned, the ultimate response will be how much personal responsibility individuals will be willing to take.

[H. Kato] This is a most important point. One precondition of [the construction of] Kansai Airport was a halt at Itami, but operations will not be halted. And now, with the talk of building an airport out in Kobe Bay, the public has to wonder why all this money is being used. The Honshu-Shikoku Bridge is another case in point. Everyone could see the need for one, but no one expected three to be built.

[K. Kato] For those of us who come from the Tohoku area, we can only shake our heads.

[H. Kato] Recently, when Sakigake [Harbinger] presents an administrative reform proposal, the LDP and the SDPJ appear to feel a bit uncomfortable. Quite a few people are starting to think that administrative reform is just another excuse to raise taxes later down the line, and that there is no real determination to get it done.

[K. Kato] Like you say, the LDP has more than a few people who shake their heads at Sakigake proposals. It is probably necessary to debate each point separately.

[H. Kato] The largest problem faced in relaxing regulations is the disparity between domestic and foreign prices. Japan's public utility charges are especially high. A cap was put on these utility charges which was immediately lifted, but that is the sort of thing which is hard for the people to understand.

[K. Kato] The whole point behind deregulation is nothing more than we want a nation where things are less expensive and the entrepreneurial spirit can flourish. So, in order to bring prices down, which regulations should be eliminated first? We have to share the burden and split our losses; we have to have everyone participate in the debate. I do not see any hope for a rise in base pay (scales) next spring, and at the same time, we have to recognize that the rate of social security payments for pensions to support our aging populace must be raised. The main issue over the next year or two will be how to bring prices down in Japan.

[H. Kato] I agree.

Leadership in Reform Urged

OW0612121494 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 24 Nov 94 Morning Edition p 5

["Dialogue" between Kazuo Inamori, chairman of Kyocera Corporation, and Shusei Tanaka, deputy head of Sakigake (Harbinger); second in a series of two "Dialogues on Administrative Reform"; date and place not given; first paragraph is NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Murayama cabinet has made little progress in its publicly pledged administrative reform, and its shouts and calls for it now sound hollow. The prime minister needs strong leadership that can smash the barrier of the bureaucrat and the private sector should establish the principle of self-responsibility. In the second in a series of dialogues, Shusei Tanaka, deputy head of Sakigake and Kazuo Inamori, chairman of Kyocera Corporation, discussed the roles of politicians, bureaucrats, and the people.

[Inamori] For the past three years I served under the late Eiji Suzuki as a member of the Third Council on Administrative Reform. And because there has been a long interval since the Ad Hoc Commission on Administrative Reform was at work under the chairmanship of Toshio Doko, I think that administrative reform is only being talked about without real action and the popular realization of the real need for administrative reform has become thinner. So I think it is better to replace the words "administrative reform" with the phrase "a campaign to build a country with less taxes," and "deregulation" with "a campaign to make commodity prices cheaper."

[Tanaka] Pursuing administrative reform was one major reason I quit the LDP and helped to form Sakigake. On 19 August 1992, when I met Morihiro Hosokawa for the first time, we found ourselves to be kindred spirits "to carry out administrative reform," and I promised him that "when the Miyazawa cabinet ends, I will leave the party—even if I were the only person to do so—and join you in whatever actions you take."

I was greatly interested in administrative reform because I came to realize that the Japanese bureaucracy is confronted with the first major turning point since the Meiji era as the result of the end of the Cold War, and the Japanese economy is not expanding forever as it used to be. In other words, the bureaucracy existed within the exact same external frame as the Tenno [Emperor] system before World War II, the system under the Allied occupation after the war, followed by the Cold War regime. Now Japan is facing—for the first time—an environment in which no such external frame exists.

[Inamori] Now, half a century after the war, I still think that real democracy has not grown in Japan. It was because General Douglas MacArthur and his occupation forces allowed the bureaucracy—which had played the vital role of ruling Japan as the Emperor's government officials since the Meiji era—to remain intact. Therefore, the sense of "okami" lingers on among civilians and officials at central government agencies.

But now is the time to create a democracy for the benefit of the people, not for the interest of the central government agencies. Bureaucrats are advised to refrain a little from poking into everything. And the ideals in the preamble of the Constitution that "Japan is a democracy" should be used in administrative reform.

[Tanaka] I fully agree with you. So far, administrative reform has been entrusted to the administration and the administration itself has considered it to be their own work. (laughter) It is such an absurdity that a patient performs surgical operations on himself.

[Inamori] For example, this is a good opportunity to put in force such a daring idea that all special public corporations be disbanded once and for all. Historically speaking, special public corporations were established to supplement the development of the Japanese economy after the war, when 100 million people were leading desperate lives due to the huge economic damage Japan had suffered, and private economic power was weak. Half a century after the war, Japanese enterprises have grown to be ranked among the world's greatest, erasing the historical and social background that necessitated the special public corporations.

[Tanaka] Examined one by one, all special public corporations had good reasons for coming into being. They cannot be scrapped unless such rough measures in the plain sense of justice are taken that each is ordered to "Dissolve!," if the answer is "No" to the question: "Do you think the dissolution of your special public corporation will bring down Japan?" I may be criticized for such an idea, but it is certain that nothing will result if detailed hearings are conducted. When such ostensible results as a decrease in the amount of subsidies, number of directors, and number of "amakudari"—former government officials making a living off of private corporations—are achieved, popular cooperation will accelerate, I think.

Functions of the Prime Minister's Office Are Questioned

[Tanaka] People's energy is behind administrative reform and uniting the people and making progress in the effort depends on the prime minister's determination and ability to put it into practice. For that reason, I have lately come to think strongly in favor of creating, before anything else, a main body intended to propel the reform.

I am apt to say that a Japanese prime minister has a dual role of being the head of the administration and of being the head of politics confronting the administration with the backing of popular will. Once on the pinnacle of the premiership, the rear slope—meaning the consumers or livelihood earners—can well be observed. In other words, the premiership is the only position from which the premier is able to personally hear the voice and get in touch with the feelings of the people.

Administrative reform is the most important part of the prime minister's work as the leader of politics. Therefore, the first thing to do is "strengthening the functions of the prime minister's office" which will eventually consolidate his leadership as the leader of politics.

[Inamori] To make reviewing rigid budget allotments in public works possible, effects of administrative reform must reach into the power and authority of each and every ministry and agency of the government. Otherwise, no small government is possible.

[Tanaka] That is a vital point. In short, it leads to an idea of creating the office of cabinet, which incorporates such bureaus as finance planning, economic planning, administrative management, and diplomatic policy. And as the staff members of the prime minister's office, learned persons from the private sector, not public servants, are employed. The idea expands to conducting administration in the tense relationship with each and every ministry and agency of the government.

[Inamori] Under the present organization, the cabinet cannot decide anything without consulting a meeting of administrative vice ministers. Therefore, the only new way of accomplishing objectives is for the prime minister to be able to tell cabinet ministers: "I want it be done this way." Even if the prime minister has that sort of courage, I wonder whether it can go through under the present organizational system. If so, the present top structure of the administration has to be changed to begin with.

[Tanaka] Lately, I have been saying: "In carrying out administrative reform, there is no difference between the ruling and opposition parties." In attempting the merger or abolition of special public corporations, ministries, and agencies, all political parties are advised to submit names of pertinent organizations that fall into such a category in their opinion. Administrative reform will proceed when mergers and abolition of only those most commonly mentioned in the list is done.

To the opposition proposal, it was fortunate that the prime minister said: "That is good. Let us go ahead with it through coordination of the ruling and opposition parties." The New New Party to be formed is said to be planning a welfare vision and administrative reform. Sakigake will go along with any plan, however severe it may be, and even with all opposition plans. The first consideration must be given to the materialization of administrative reform before everything.

As for the management of the committee on administrative reform, Sakigake has been saying that former government officials should not be allowed to become committee members and the post of the secretary general should be concurrently held by a member of the private sector, not by a public official. It would be ridiculous for the secretariat to be run by persons on the side of which the reforms are being enacted. It would be like appointing election campaign workers to the election administration committee. (laughter)

Now is a good time to establish the fourth power that checks on the administration, although the idea may be criticized as contradicting to the three powers of administration. That power can be installed in the Diet in the form of independent Diet public officials. It is completely different from other administrative organizations. This idea is under consideration by Sakigake.

[Inamori] The administrative reform promotion headquarters at the Prime Minister's Office, composed by cabinet ministers, has not been doing anything. It has not proposed any plan as Sakigake did. There seems to be no possibility of any plans forthcoming. Cabinet ministers would not propose anything that will affect their own ministries. The government cannot be expected to make reforms on itself. Therefore, the administrative reform promotion headquarters itself has to be reviewed once more, I think.

[Tanaka] Prime Minister Murayama is full of the will to act. Whenever I meet him, he says "administrative reform should be undertaken." But to accomplish it, there should be clearcut plans. Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura says: "A new economic plan should be worked out to replace the five-year plan to build a great nation with a better quality of life," and I am all for it. The institute led by Gaishi Hiraiwa has proposed to lead Japan out of the occlusive situation following the rupture of the bubble economy. With this as the foundation, an economic plan should be worked out.

That plan must clearly define the scope and time limit of either a five-year plan for deregulation or a five-year plan for administrative reform. Or it should present a concrete plan displaying a distinct image about the merger or abolishment of ministries and/or agencies. These ideas and wisdoms should be incorporated into an economic program which I think should be hastily worded out.

[Inamori] Now that the Cold War and the high economic growth of Japan has come to an end and the bubble economy has ruptured, we may have to decide on our long- and medium-range grand design to attain our objectives and work out a plan which tells us what to do to approach our goals. As a methodology to build such a wonderful nation and society, I think such problems as administrative reform, deregulation, special public corporations, and the bureaucratic system should be dealt with.

Deregulation Accompanied By Pains

[Inamori] It is feared that the government hereafter will become corpulent. This poses a problem of vitality for Japanese economy. We have to ask the people how much burden they are willing to shoulder, in order to build such an idealistic nation and society. At present the Finance Ministry attempts to collect money wherever it can. It must be stopped, and we have to decide the limit of the burden after gaining the consensus.

[Tanaka] Since there are problems specific to their times, such as composition by age or family in particular times and the existence of generations that suffered extreme pains during certain period of times, various forms of treatment to these problems are possible. But if the nation does not base its foundation on self-responsibility, self-support, or self-help, the nation will eventually collapse financially.

[Inamori] As for deregulation, we should once and for all stop imposing economic control, which stiffened conditions for competition and prevented the entry of new venturing industries under the pretext of protecting and promoting suppliers. But social controls over the environment and safety will be left. Strict observation, however, is necessary to distinguish disguised economic controls from social controls.

[Tanaka] In my opinion, the first thing to do is to classify controls in economic and social terms. I advocate this because there are no such things as purely economic controls, and most of the restrictions incorporate both economic and social factors. Thus, it is feared that few restrictions are going to be deregulated.

It is important that such concrete policy objectives should be worked out such as cutting the cost of residential house construction by one-third within several years, for instance. When restrictions are eased and house prices go down, jubilant users will come to fully support the government effort to narrow the difference in domestic and foreign prices. For the first time, then, the relation between the government and the people will reach the status of the advanced nations.

[Inamori] I think it is true that the people are lacking in their self-realization, in contrast to the statement that "the people are sovereign." They support the general principle, but they become antagonists as soon as an independent matter comes up. Their dependence on the government does not change forever, blocking reforms to take place. When business slows, people ask for pump priming measures by the government. The government recognizes this tendency towards dependence and makes sure that they will be remunerated in a certain way. (laughter) Nobody in the economic world can endure it. The people must awaken to their self-responsibility, the foundation of democracy, and be courageous enough to carry it out.

[Tanaka] A social policy viewpoint is required in carrying out deregulation. Let me cite an example of a liquor store operated by an aged couple in a mountainous area. The store is at the mercy of the customers who visit it. If liquor can be sold completely freely, a young couple next door who used to work for a medium-sized or small enterprise may start selling liquor after quitting the company. They may go around to take orders and deliver the merchandise over the mountain by driving a van. It is a natural consequence that the old couple's store will go out of business. So, there must be social policy consideration for the old couple.

Effective deregulation will certainly produce surplus labor forces, necessitating a prospective plan to create new employment. That is why I am urging the working out of an "economic policy." The policy must envision creating new employment and, at the same time, incorporate a five-year deregulation plan. In a sense, deregulation must be carried out carefully.

[Inamori] If it is done as you suggest, little progress will be made. It is a prerequisite that deregulation will render pains on both sides. The case of the aged couple forced to close their liquor store can be relieved socially. Administrative reform will not make progress, lest such problems should take place. Of course, politicians have to be sympathetic to such problems, I agree. But the real reforms cannot be so generous; I think they are severe and cruelly coldhearted.

[Tanaka] I am suggesting that there should be a final consideration of relief. Especially important is creating employment. Politically speaking, reforms should not be done without such considerations. If not, what are politics for, and what is the administration for?

In the present situation in which regulations are laid in such a close network and the grim difference between domestic and foreign prices exists, enterprising businessmen have made begun destroying price barriers, throwing the market into confusion. Facing such a reality, I think that the time is mature for deregulation. Therefore, the slower the progress in government-initiated deregulation, the greater confusion it will bring about.

[Inamori] As the matter of fact, I come from Kagoshima. And for the first time recently I went to Yakushima Island, which has been designated a cultural heritage of the world, to see Yaku sugi [cedar or cryptomeria] land. There I found a signboard on which is written "Renewing the windfalls," and a tall cedar standing on a giant fallen tree. I walked in the woods among big trees with thick foliage, treading on the wet ground with no weeds. But when a big tree falls, blue skies are suddenly opened up and cedar seeds which have fallen on the ground that year sprout up, beginning severe contests for survival. The seed on the big fallen tree looks like the strongest because it absorbs nutrition from the windfall and sprouts a new trunk to grow another big tree.

In our society, it becomes a social as well as an economic problem when banks and big enterprises go out of business. It is illogical in Nature, however, that a giant creature continues to exist as it is forever. In the wake of some failings, new ventures and new industries sprout up, and I think it is necessary to understand this need in a natural environment.

Of course, relief measures have to be taken to care for the social problem created by failings. But the failings should not be construed to be a social tragedy. I think an attempt to stop the failings will hinder progress.

[Tanaka] Certainly, the myths about real estate, prices, and the LDP went to pieces. A giant tree still has to fall, and if the myth that wages will never fall down goes too, a good promising world may unfold before us. If not, we cannot get over the current difficulties.

Position Paper for Information Society Drafted

OW0612044894 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 4 Dec 94 Morning Edition p 2

[Summary of the draft position paper of the private sector experts' committee of the government's Advanced Information and Communications Society Promotion Headquarters (chaired by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama) to be submitted in mid-December, made public on 3 December]

[FBIS Translated Text] The following are the main points of the draft position paper compiled by the committee of private sector experts of the Advanced Information and Communications Society Promotion Headquarters:

1. Basic Thinking on the Advanced Information and Communications Society

(1) Significance of an advanced information and communications society:

A. The "benefits of accumulation" and "benefits of networking" will not only reduce the prices of products supplied by the industries; it will also be possible to reduce public utility charges, costs of medical care and education, and the tax burden. "Economic growth without inflation" and "high level of welfare with low social costs," which are considered impossible under the 20th Century system of industrialization, will materialize. This is the ultimate goal of promoting policies toward a "society of advanced information and communications."

B. It is believed that an advanced level of information and communications will, in the mid- and long-term, contribute significantly to the solution of problems relating to the aging society, environmental issues and correcting the overconcentration of functions in Tokyo.

(2) The role of the government and the private sector in building a society of advanced information and communications:

A. Efforts to build a society of advanced information and communications should be led by the private sector. The role of the government will be to create a conducive environment in the economic and legal aspects. Drastic relaxation and abolition of regulations, particularly a review of the various institutions related to the application phase, will be necessary.

B. Close cooperation between government and private sector to build the basic infrastructure is necessary. Public assistance by the government is deemed indispensable.

C. The government should set a target deadline (for example, completing work on a nationwide optical fiber network by 2010, when the population size reaches its peak), and should provide appropriate public assistance in the initial phase.

(3) What the government should do to help build a society of advanced information and communications:

A. Need for comprehensive and systematic promotion.

a. To promote a higher level of information and communications, the government should aim at completing the building of infrastructure in the key areas and actual application in the public sector, while also taking into consideration similar trends in the United States, by 2000. A nationwide infrastructure should be completed by 2010. It should aim at completing the information and communications infrastructure as soon as possible.

b. Government assistance during the initial stage of construction up to 2000 should take the form of priority public investment in projects promoting a higher level of information and communications.

2. Problems in realizing a society of advanced information and communications

(1) Information systems for the public sectors (development and popularization of applications in the public sectors):

A. Basic thinking—information system projects should be undertaken systematically according to the degree of social relevance of each sector (e.g. medical care, education).

B. Information systems for public administration.

C. Information systems for education, research, and academic studies.

D. Information systems for medical care and welfare.

(2) Review of various institutions for a higher level of information and communications.

(3) Network infrastructure—The government should set a target deadline. In the initial stage, it should assist the promotion of infrastructure through measures to lighten the burden of investment (e.g. interest-free loans, preferential tax treatment).

(4) Measures concerning copyright, security, and protection of privacy:

A. Basic thinking—One of the central issues in the promotion of a "society of advance information and communications" is the balancing of the right to information and the other basic rights (e.g. state sovereignty, private property).

B. Standardization.

C. Availability of software.

D. Basic technological development.

E. Manpower training.

3. International Efforts

The government should regard cooperation with and assistance for the global information infrastructure (GII) as the core of its foreign economic aid programs.

Murayama 'Confident' of Managing Politics

OW0612054094 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 4 Dec 94 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama has been increasingly confident in his ability to manage politics. His confidence was built upon the achievements of his administration in solving various issues such as political and tax reform at the current Diet. It also came from the fact that the most serious threat that could lead to a split in the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] and a division within the administration has been eliminated, as a political realignment move made by "the New Democratic League" [NDL], a SDPJ policy group led by former SDPJ Chairman Sadao Yamahana, toned down for the moment. The prime minister has been coming on strong, seeing a number of Shinshinto [New Frontier Party] members defect before the party's official inauguration set for 10 December. With the increasing stability of his administration, Murayama intends to make full-fledged efforts to formulate his own policy vision for next year so as to further strengthen administrative unity.

"This three-poled Shinto shrine symbolizes the current coalition administration (comprised of the Liberal Democratic Party, the SDPJ, and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger])." When meeting with representatives from "the labor unions supporting the SDPJ" at the prime minister's official residence on 30 November, Murayama pointed at a picture of the three-poled shrine on the wall of his office and smiled with satisfaction. One representative said his face "beamed" with relief and ease as a move to break up the SDPJ—mostly advocated by the NDL—toned down and administrative collapse was avoided for the time being.

From the beginning, Murayama and his aides were nervous about the NDL's move toward the formation of the new democratic liberal party because they thought: "What the NDL really wants is to divide the SDPJ and overthrow the cabinet." Therefore, for the prime minister, a comedown of the NDL move meant that "a fish bone stuck in the throat finally came off" (according to a Murayama aide). Murayama seems to have judged that he could "smoothly manage" the question of whether to hold an extra party convention [to disband the SDPJ] in January 1995 under the current political situation.

His confidence in managing the SDPJ and the government is reflected in his positive comments and attitude.

"The New Frontier Party lacks momentum. It is just a composite of many parties and there is nothing new in it" (stated at a reception party held at SDPJ headquarters in Tokyo on 29 November).

"I was reluctant at first. But now I am determined to do my best. Leaving my fate to Heaven, I will tackle with my duty with an open mind and without predispositions" (stated at his meeting with dietmen from Oita Prefecture on 30 November).

"I am willing to sacrifice myself to create one of three political axis" (as in reply to a group of reporters on 30 November).

In addition to these comments, various sources close to Murayama agree: "The prime minister has been in a very good mode since the end of November."

Jiro Yamaguchi, a Hokkaido University professor, said at a meeting held in a Tokyo hotel on 29 November by "21-Kai," prime minister's private advisory council: "My wife said why I agreed to serve as an adviser to the Murayama administration, which will be short-lived. But I assure you it will become long-lived, if we work things out one by one." His remarks delighted Murayama.

The prime minister intends to make utmost efforts to formulate a "Murayama vision" to mainly deal with post-war issues and administrative reform. With his own political color, he wants to further solidify the basis of his administration. However, difficulties are expected in administrative reform due to opposition from bureaucrats. Thus, as quite a few observers noted, "the prime minister may have to settle for mixed results."

* Takeo Nishioka Assesses LDP-SDPJ Tie-Up

952B0018A Tokyo SHUKAN YOMIURI in Japanese 23 Oct 94 pp 139-143

[Interview with Takeo Nishioka, by Kenichi Kawahito; place and date not given; passages in italics are SHUKAN YOMIURI editorial comments]

[FBIS Translated Text] *The new-new party group is a conglomeration and is full of political talent. Among those who separated from the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], the statements and actions of Takeo Nishioka, the leader of the former Kaikaku-no-kai, will be the object of particular attention. He is also very close to the former prime minister, Toshiki Kaifu, who is the favored candidate for the party leader of the new party.*

Has Vote Already Been Cast for "Party Leader Kaifu"?

It is obvious if you look at his career record that he is a politician who is very hard to deal with. He had been in the former Miki faction in the LDP until he formed the Shinjiyu Club [New Liberal Club] together with the present foreign minister (LDP president), Yohei Kono. Three years later he split with Mr. Kono and resigned from that party.

After returning to the LDP, he joined the Miyazawa faction, but during the Kaifu administration, he was dismissed from the faction over the Executive Council chairman's office issue. At the end of last year, he sided with the government on the political reform bill and repeatedly rebeled. Again, he resigned from the LDP and established "Kaikaku-no-kai" with Kunio Hatoyama, Takashi Sasagawa, and Masamitsu Oishi, joining the former government group.

[Kawahito] The new-new party is going to be established this year. What about the party head? Younger politicians are insisting on election.

[Nishioka] As a rule, it is right to select the head by election. However, if we do that, then everybody will be insisting on having someone from his party become the head again. Numerical logic will create trouble.

Personally, I think we should discuss it in organizers' meeting and select someone. Then we should cast a vote of confidence.

[Kawahito] Mr. Nishioka, are you going to support Kaifu, the former prime minister?

[Nishioka] I think that the details of the recent appointment of the ruling party head is important. Kaifu (when he was prime minister) began political reform, and he was mortified to have to quit prematurely. Kaifu fought as a candidate for president of the ruling party this June and lost. We all voted for him, didn't we? In this sense even though the party president should be selected by election, the voting has already been done. That's what I think. But some time has passed since then, so I would like to hear everyone's opinion. Well, Kaifu and I are good friends, and everybody knows that. But I do not intend to say that no one but Kaifu can be president.

Mr. Nishioka became chairman of the LDP Executive Council during the second Kaifu administration. At that time, the secretary general was Ichiro Ozawa, and chairman of the Policy Affairs Research Council was Mutsuki Kato. Now, these three top executives of the LDP, including Kaifu, are in the new party group.

A political critic, Keiichiro Nakamura, evaluates Nishioka, "He is close to Kaifu as well as Ichiro Ozawa. Especially, he is in agreement with Ozawa in that they both want to reevaluate the Constitution in a positive manner. They share the same political principles. If everyone agrees to make Kaifu the head of the new-new party, Mr. Nishioka will become influential within the new party because of his association with key personnel. However, he will not do well with the LDP. After his return to the LDP, they even made him one of the top three executives. Despite that, he again left the party..."

A Party Without Restrictions Imposed by the Party Council Cannot Be a Party

[Kawahito] Some in the new party group think that it should value democratic procedure and also reevaluate the restrictions imposed by the party council in a flexible manner. What do you think?

[Nishioka] The procedure may be democratic, but the decision should be centralized. Otherwise, it would not be clear where the responsibility lies. The term, "democratic procedure" sounds nice. However, if we pursue that only, the whereabouts of the responsibility will become unclear, and we will not know who is responsible. If we remove all party decisions, then the party will not stand. I often talk about the United States as an example, but the presidential system and the parliamentary system are different.

I am not talking about bills concerning philosophy, feelings, and sentiments, such as the issue of medical transplant. Party politics cannot stand without party decisions.

[Kawahito] But you yourself used to go against LDP party decisions.

[Nishioka] Last December, I attended a plenary session of the Diet against the party's will. Well, the LDP had criticized the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] boycott of plenary sessions. Boycotting it would be the same as abandoning one's duty. It was wrong of the LDP to tell its members to do so. Also, political reform was a public promise, which they broke. It's they who violated the party decision. The party's executives are at fault. It was a great mistake for Yohei Kono to run for the LDP president office.

Yohei Kono once was the head of the Shinjiyu Club. Mr. Nishioka was secretary general of the party. Because of their disagreement in political direction, they are on bad terms with each other now. When Mr. Nishioka returned to the LDP, they belonged to the Miyazawa faction together. However, (according to a former Miyazawa faction member) "Even at the faction's general meetings, not only would they not speak to each other, but they would look opposite ways."

Toshio Yamaguchi, also from the Shinjiyu Club, is in the new party group. But Mr. Nishioka does not get along with him, either.

One Diet member said, "Mr. Yamaguchi valued Kunio Hatoyama, and was nurturing him to become a next-generation politician. However, Hatoyama joined Nishioka's Kaikaku-no-kai and upset Yamaguchi.

"Hatoyama was grumbling that Yamaguchi had not forgiven him, and that he was in trouble."

Some of Us Among Those Who Left the LDP Have Pride

[Kawahito] Those who separated from the LDP have joined together as the Jiyu Kaikaku Rengo [Liberal Reform Alliance]. Are there difference in opinion within the group?

[Nishioka] Each of us in Jiyu Kaikaku Rengo is different. Each of us has a unique political center, and the difference in nuances becomes obvious when you extend that center. Concerning getting elected, I feel that how one is elected is very important. For example, Kunio Hatoyama resigned from the party and became an independent immediately after the no-confidence vote was passed. He has continued to be independent. That is why he is in a position to be able to speak up now.

I did not attend the plenary session for the no-confidence vote in the Miyazawa administration, either. I was also left out of the first party authorizations [for party sponsorship in elections]. I did not apply to be authorized, either. I even made campaign posters without printing the word "authorized." In other words, I was prepared to fight the election as an independent. I did not know what to do when they wanted to authorize me later. I accepted it because it would have been awkward to refuse. I want to have the election soon and make this clear.

After resigning from the Shinjiyu Club and before going back to the LDP, I ran in two elections as an independent candidate. Yohei Kono is different. He was elected as an authorized candidate from the Shinjiyu Club, and he moved to the LDP immediately. His sense concerning the course of action is different from ours. I will not criticize him on this, since everyone is entitled to his own opinion.

Although I was with Kono in the Shinjiyu Club, I resigned from the party, saying that I was ashamed of my ignorance for acting together with Kono. Are you asking me what I mean by ignorance? Well, enough about Kono.

Getting back to what I was talking about, we even attended a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Political Reform, which we had been told not to attend, the end of last year, when it was not sure that the political reform bill would pass. That is why Chairman Doi was able to ring the bell for the plenary session (for passing in the House of Representatives). I am proud of that.

This is why you cannot assume that all of us who resigned from the party are the same.

A Man of Wisdom Behind the Scenes Has Established the Murayama Administration

[Kawahito] Kono's executive group is not controlling the present LDP?

[Nishioka] Of course, establishing the Murayama administration could not have been done without a manipulator behind the scenes. the LDP lost its power after last year's election. I predicted on 18 July, election day, that the LDP might go out of power and it would be a disaster. However, no one, including those currently controlling the LDP, had realized it. They probably thought if they allied with the Japan New Party, they would not go out of power.

During the next five or seven days, they were completely driven out of power. I had my own idea of a coalition government, though I cannot mention any specific names, concerning who was to be the head. The recent establishment of the Murayama administration also must have been devised by a manipulator behind the scenes, not by the LDP executive group, of course. The experience in the past was effective.

[Kawahito] The LDP is predicting that dissolution of the Diet and the general election will take place in two years.

[Nishioka] That is deceptive. They would have candidates in 300 single-seat constituencies any time, abandoning the SDPJ. Whenever they are ready, they will have an election, without any concern for the SDPJ. The SDPJ will make a fool of itself.

Fortunately or unfortunately, there are so many in the LDP's candidate reserve. In my hometown, Nagasaki, the SDPJ has a female incumbent as a member of the upper house, who was elected in the "consumption tax" election. However, there are three members of the prefectural assembly, who are going to run for the next year's House of Councilors election as authorized candidates from the LDP. They can be in the single-seat constituencies, also.

I Sense "Political Change" in the Near Future

[Kawahito] Will the SDPJ become extinct when the LDP abandons them?

[Nishioka] The SDPJ seems to feel at rest, because they were told they could stay in power as long as two or three years. However, they are wrong. They have no sense of crisis. Those who understand this are Sadao Yamahana and his group. I think that is why they took such an action (establishing a group called Shin Minshu Rengo [New Democratic Alliance] within the SDPJ).

Without waiting for the election, there may be a political change in the near future. I mean that the Murayama cabinet will fall. I have one concern. I cannot tell you now. It is not a scandal.

A parliamentary group, "Kaikaku" [Renovation], which began with 187 original members, second to the LDP in number of members, exercised its strategy of boycotting the plenary session in which the general-policy speech was delivered, demanding the post of vice chairman. However, Nishioka and his group attended the plenary session, and once again "rebelled."

[Kawahito] What were your thoughts about attending the plenary session?

[Nishioka] That was immediately after the group called "Kaikaku" was established, and its operation and structure had not been quite organized yet. That's when the issue of the vice chairman's seat came up. We just were unable to reach consensus. There is nothing much to it.

We thought the plenary session will not be held. That was our mistake. I personally thought there was a possibility that it would be held. Our group stood by in the waiting room of the Diet. Others left.

People would think "Kaikaku" broke ranks, though I did not want them to think that way. But I thought they would understand. We have had general meetings of Diet members since then, but no one has said anything. They probably know (that it was their mistake in predicting).

I can understand that they want the vice chairman's seat. However, this time, it would be impossible unless the present vice chairman resigns.

Well, most of our members took action against the LDP's boycotting the plenary session. Unlike the time when a vote for a bill is going to be forced, a general policy speech is customary, and it would not be appropriate to boycott the session where it's given....

I Like Ozawa for Reaching Conclusion Quickly

[Kawahito] Finally, please evaluate Ichiro Ozawa.

[Nishioka] Our opinions agree. I like the fact that he reaches a conclusion quickly. I feel that the mass media wrote too much about him. A virtual image, or rather, a different image of him has been formed. It happened to

Shin Kanemaru once. Whenever Mr. Kanemaru said anything, it would become a magnitude- 8 headline. An atmosphere was created where no one could say anything to Kanemaru, and all kept quiet. However, I opposed him twice, once when I was chairman of the Executive Council and once when I was chairman of the Tax System Research Council. But he did not say anything.

LDP Trying To Expand Influence Over Unions

OW0612085794 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 29 Nov 94 p 3

[Article by Makoto Nakagawa and Satoru Sakakibara, SANKEI SHIMBUN staff members: "LDP Makes 'Rush Efforts' To Increase Support in Urban Areas"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] Secretary General Yoshiro Mori, Chairman of Policy Research Council Koichi Kato, and others have recently been making active approaches to labor unions, to win their support with an eye on the forthcoming general elections and realignment in the political world. They are apparently attempting to undermine the opposition "Shinshinto" [New Frontier Party] and at the same time to seek increased support from among the wage earners in urban areas for the LDP which so far laid emphasis on rural areas. The labor unions interpret such LDP moves as tactics to divide them and are on their guard. Therefore, it remains to be seen how far and active the "exchanges between the LDP and labor unions" will go.

With the aim of inaugurating the Murayama cabinet in June, the LDP from early this year began approaching labor unions of which the main target was Jichiro [All Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers' Union] from which Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama came from. The LDP continued to meet them and of late has been stepping up the pace.

In the evening of 10 November, Secretary General Mori conferred with an influential leader of a local industrial union at a Japanese restaurant in Tokyo. On the same evening, Policy Research Council Chairman Kato dined with Jichiro leaders and in the afternoon on the following day (11 November) met with Jichiro Chairman Morishige Goto who is concurrently Rengo's acting chairman at the LDP Headquarters building. In the evening on 21 November, Kato met with Kiyoshi Sasamori, chairman of the Federation of Electric Workers Unions of Japan and concurrently Rengo's political committee chairman.

On top of those unofficial meetings mentioned above, there have been a number of formal contacts. On 16 November, Kato invited Teruhito Tokumoto, chairman of the Confederation of Japan Automobile Workers Unions and concurrently Rengo's vice chairman, to the general meeting of Group Shinseiki [New Century] which Kato represents. In the evening of 25 November, Kato and other LDP leaders were on hand at a party bidding farewell to Rengo's outgoing chairman Akira Yamagishi held at a Nippori hotel in Tokyo. On 29 November, Kato will be present at a panel discussion sponsored by Jichiro. It is the first time that one of the three top-ranking officials of the LDP will ever attend such a gathering.

On top of them, repeated meetings have been held between those close to Vice President Keizo Obuchi and Zentei [Japan Postal Workers Union] of which chairman Mototaka Ito is concurrently a vice chairman of Rengo; between Secretary General Mori's staff and leaders of the Federation of Electric Workers Unions of Japan and of the All Japan Postal Office Labor Union. Division leaders of the Policy Research Council are also holding meetings, in conformity with their specific fields of interest, with local industrial union leaders such as Zendentsu [All Japan Electro Communications Labor Union], Denryoku Soren [Electric Workers Confederation], and so on.

Discussions at these meetings were reported to have centered around realignment of the political world and prospects of the New Democratic League contemplated by the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ]. In addition, Jichiro and the Governmental Special Corporation Employees Union are being contacted for an apparent purpose of "winning their understanding" of such policies as ones headed by the resolute implementation of administrative reform.

The LDP's leading officials on the Policy Research Council voiced their displeasure at Zendentsu, strongly opposed to the Murayama cabinet, by saying: "That is asking too much for Zendentsu to let the Murayama cabinet raise the NTT rates without changing its support of the New Frontier Party," and emphasized their opposition to the proposed raise in NTT rates. They assume Zentei is throwing its support behind the New Frontier Party and the New Democratic League. So they alternate persuasive tactics with such stiff attitude that they might "go ahead with a plan to privatize postal business." It apparently reflects the LDP's irritation that "the labor unions are excessively meddling in politics," as a Diet Affairs Committee member confides.

On 11 November, Kato told the press corps, "Those in the LDP feel it better standing on the side of wage earners than standing on the side of Chairman Takeshi Nagano of the Japan Federation of Employers Associations." As this remark indicated, the LDP, with an eye on the forthcoming general elections to be conducted under the new system, is attempting to spread its influence over wage earners through its exchanges with labor unions.

Top Rengo officials are embarrassed because of such LDP offensive and said, "the labor union side cannot cast away its allergic feeling against it." It stems from the past practice of a majority of labor unions that have long supported the SDPJ and the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] and opposed the LDP all along in the national elections. A strong resistance seems to exist among the labor union leaders, except for a few like Etsuya Washio, Rengo's secretary general, who said: "I am ready to talk with any political party, when approached."

Labor unions affiliated with Rengo had a record of uniting under the "non-LDP" slogan when the Hosokawa cabinet came into being last year. Rengo remains basically "non-LDP," though the affiliated labor unions are divided into forces advocating the "formation of a third force" and "the support for opposition New Frontier Party."

Zentei does not conceal its anger against the proposed plan for privatization of postal business and one of its cadres said, "It is absurd for the LDP to harass us with the claim that the ruling party can do anything. But a labor union has freedom to support any political party."

In the case of a leading local industrial union that supported the DSP, "its management group was" threatened by the LDP top officials that the special measures on taxation may be reviewed," according to a union official. The management side thrust it back by saying: "You'd better tell the union whatever matters concerning the union." And the union side lodged a strong protest against the LDP officials, "Do not underestimate private industrial unions." The local industrial union leader pointed out that "the LDP is obsessed with a sense of crisis that labor unions may throw their support behind the New Frontier Party."

It does not mean, however, that all union leaders hold feeling of hatred for the LDP. Chairman Teruhito Tokumoto of the Confederation of Japan Automobile Workers Unions, who was present as a guest of honor at the recent general meeting of the "Group Shinseiki," commented favorably on "those exchanges," by saying: "Rengo's political attitude can be presented [at these exchange meetings] to win understanding from among the young Diet members who left good impression on me." Such tendency may grow stronger as Rengo is accelerating its switch from "supporting political parties" to "supporting politicians."

SDPJ Manifesto Lays Groundwork for New Move

OW0612122694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1156 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 6 KYODO—The Social Democratic Party (SDP [SDPJ]) on Tuesday [6 December] unveiled a draft document of its proposed new tenets with which it would seek to win voter support in the changing political environment.

SDP Secretary General Wataru Kubo announced the draft of the "1995 Manifesto" at a news conference in the Diet building. He is a chief advocate of a proposal to create a new party of "liberals and democrats" by bringing together legislators from both inside and outside the SDP.

The draft is appealing to both the right and left wings of the party to deepen debate about various proposals in the document in a bid to transform the SDP into the new party and help ensure the survival of some of the its long-held political ideals in the rapidly changing political landscape.

The draft says, "this manifesto will be presented to a new party of democrats and liberals and the SDP and the new party will further deepen and develop the contents of the manifesto."

The SDP says it plans to have the draft scrutinized by a meeting of the party's regional deputies slated to assemble in Tokyo on Dec. 18.

On top of the possible endorsement by the Dec. 18 meeting, the draft has to receive approval from an upcoming national convention if it is to become the SDP's official platform with binding powers, SDP officials said.

Although Kubo and the New Democratic League (NDL), an internal SDP group pushing the early formation of the new party, is calling for the convention to be called in January, a specific date has not yet been decided due to disagreement in the party, the officials said.

While vowing to "unfurl the wings of social democracy in a more robust manner," the draft calls for the SDP to adopt the tenets of fairness, symbiosis, peace and creativity as its new "fundamental values."

It is calling for transferring the jurisdiction to draft a state budget from the Finance Ministry to the cabinet secretariat of the government in a bid to pare down the influence of bureaucrats on Japanese society.

"The leadership in forming policies should be taken back by politicians from bureaucrats," it says.

As for security, the draft calls for diluting the character of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty as a military alliance, while strengthening political and economic friendship.

The draft also says that although the constitutionality of the Self-Defense Forces should be recognized, the SDF itself should shrink gradually under a disarmament program.

It says, "Japan should join all the UN peacekeeping operations that do not involve the use of military force in their purpose and implementation."

The draft also calls for the imposition of a total ban on political donations form businesses to politicians.

Yamahana Warns Followers Against Leaving SDPJ

OW0612050294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0443 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 6 KYODO—Sadao Yamahana, a senior Social Democratic Party

(SDP) lawmaker and the party's most vocal advocate for creating a new party, cautioned his followers Tuesday [6 December] against leaving the SDP before the Dec. 18 meeting of the party's local branch heads.

Yamahana's admonition against rash actions was directed to the five SDP members from Hyogo Prefecture who had agreed to leave the party in a joint move to reverse the lagging momentum within the SDP toward the proposed new party.

The five—four House of Representatives legislators and one House of Councillors lawmaker—are all members of the New Democratic League, Yamahana's vehicle to launch a new liberal party.

At a Tuesday meeting of the league's executives, Yamahana said, "The actions by the Hyogo legislators are of great significance to our league. I would like to see them act in unification with us."

One of the five SDP dissidents, upper house member Shoji Motooka, said, "We have not yet made a final decision to quit the SDP. We are going to consult with Mr. Yamahana and other league members."

The five met with officials of the party's headquarters in Hyogo Prefecture on Sunday and confirmed their decision to quit the SDP to give some thrust to the moves toward the new party.

The SDP is set to call a meeting of the party's local branch heads on Dec. 18 to discuss a proposal to transfer its legislators to the new party.

The SDP, headed by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, is one of the three ruling coalition parties along with the Liberal Democratic Party and New Party Sakigake.

Supporters of Murayama are less eager to promote the idea, and the five Hyogo SDP legislators, ired by the lagging movements, want to see the embodiment of the new party plan by the meeting.

Murayama and the SDP's No. 2 man, Secretary General Wataru Kubo, have agreed not to split the party in pursuing the idea. Kubo has also been advocating to change the party into a new force to cope with the ongoing political realignment.

Leaders View Further Political Realignment

OW0612090894 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0000 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 0000 GMT on 4 December in its regular "Sunday Discussion" program carries a live debate on the theme of "Political Realignment Act II: How Should Politics Be Changed."

Participants in the 75-minute debate, moderated by NHK commentator Takashi Yamamoto, are Yoshiro Mori, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP); Wataru Kubo, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ); Yukio Hatoyama, secretary general of Sakigake (Harbinger Party); Yuichi Ichikawa, secretary general of Komeito; Kansei Nakano, secretary general of the Democratic Socialist Party of Japan (DSP); Kazuo Shii, head of the Japan Communist Party (JCP) Secretariat; and commentator Naoki Tanaka.

Yamamoto begins the debate by asking the party leaders how they evaluate Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's administration after five months since its inauguration. Mori and Kubo give high marks to the administration for its achievements, including political and tax system reforms. Ichikawa and Nakano belittle the administration's achievements, pointing out that the administration merely carried out the unfinished portion of the work basically completed by the administrations of former Prime Ministers Morihiro Hosokawa and Tsutomu Hata.

At 0015 GMT, the discussion shifts to political realignment. Regarding the New Frontier Party (NFP), Mori admits the necessity of political parties regrouping to cope with the newly adopted electoral system combining single-seat constituencies with proportional representation. He points out that the new party will face difficulties, saying: "I believe Mr. Ichikawa and Mr. Nakano are quite anguished over what to do about their parties' local branches and long-time supporters, considering how they would feel about moving to a new party so easily, merely for the party headquarters' convenience." Kubo points out the new party has yet to identify itself since it has not made clear its concepts. Ichikawa describes the new party's formation as a "remarkable event in the history of postwar Japanese politics," since there has been "a long period in which only the LDP held the reigns of government" but "great pains have been taken in finally creating a new political force that can compete with the LDP and take over rule." He also stresses that the new party has been created to "root out political corruption" that resulted from the LDP's long domination. Joining the discussion via remote hookup, Hatoyama criticizes the former ruling coalition parties' motives for forming the NFP, saying: "I feel they are overrating the LDP and rushing things merely because, as regards the next general election, they have to join hands to form a new party or face defeat, while putting off coordinating their views on the new party's ideology..... We do not intend to bend our basic stance even after the NFP is formed." In reaction, Ichikawa argues that Sakigake has done the same thing by joining the LDP-SDPJ-Sakigake coalition alliance and the previous coalition.

Asked when the NFP plans to spell out its identity, Ichikawa says: "We would like to come up with something concrete that we can hopefully express in a speech by the new party head at the party convention in December." Shii criticizes the remark saying: "An ideology should come before a party is formed and not the reverse."

At 0035 GMT, Nakano comments on former DSP Chairman Keigo Ouchi's announcement that he will not join the NFP. Asked about the possibility of others following suit, Nakano says: "There will be no others.... Although the move is regrettable, his decision was of his own free will, as Mr. Ouchi himself has said."

Asked about relations between the NFP and religious organizations such as the Sokkagakkai, Ichikawa rules out any single religious organization's possible influence on the party. Nakano backs Ichikawa, stressing that separation of politics and religion and politics and labor is inevitable under the new electoral system since religious and labor organizations will just become one of many supporting organizations for political parties.

Regarding selection of the new party head, Ichikawa denies media reports that former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu would become the party head with Ichiro Ozawa serving as secretary general. He says: "That is not true. We worked out rules concerning selecting the party head, secretary general, and the deputy party head just the other day. An election management committee will probably be formed on Monday, and we will finally have a vote after a number of candidates have hopefully announced their intention to run for the posts." He stresses party positions have not been decided yet, saying: "We have not even held talks about that (Kaifu-Ozawa posts) yet."

Kubo explains his concept of a new "democratic and liberal party." Asked if he still plans to form the new party before the next ordinary Diet session, Kubo says: "We are continuing to direct our efforts toward that direction.... We must hasten assembling a wider range of democratic and liberal forces, while carrying on with the principles traditionally upheld by social democrats.... As for the process and timing regarding forming the new party, we plan to hold thorough discussions at the SDPJ national representatives meeting scheduled for mid-December."

Mori approves of the idea of forming a new party of democratic and liberal forces, but warns of the timing, saying: "It is undesirable to give the people an impression that there is an internal conflict within the SDPJ at a time when we are supporting the SDPJ chairman as prime minister." While backing Mori's comments, Hatoyama expresses concerns about forming a new party, saying: "It would be dangerous—in the same way that the NFP is being formed merely to match the LDP—if political ideologies were to be ignored in forming a new party to merely serve as a third political axis to counter the formation of a bipolar political structure.... We are concerned about the idea of setting a deadline as to when certain actions must be taken." Kubo stresses he and his followers have thoroughly contemplated the new party concept, "taking into consideration the possibility of missing the timing for forming a party that could lead to the establishment of a political structure dominated by two major conservative forces."

Asked whether it would be possible for the NFP to cooperate with the new democratic and liberal party in the future, Ichikawa says that would be possible depending on circumstances. Kubo says: "That would depend on whether agreement can be reached on policies and whether mutual trust based on democratic principles could be established between the parties." Asked about the possibility of DSP members joining Kubo's new democratic and liberal party, Nakano says: "It is very unlikely now for us to extend our hand or act in harmony (with this idea)."

At 0057 GMT, Shii complains that Japanese politics is moving in a dangerous direction, stressing that all Japanese political parties except for the JCP are turning conservative. He points out that the Japanese-U.S. security arrangement is no longer a major issue. In reaction, Mori says Shii's line of thinking is not logical, arguing that the people have selected the security arrangement as a way to protect themselves. However, he says that such issues as "low- flying U.S. military aircraft and what to do about U.S. military bases in Japan is a question of how military bases should be managed, and improvements and corrections can always be made."

Mori refutes Ichikawa's allegation that the LDP has formed an anti-Sokkagakkai organization, saying the group merely studies problems, such as tax-related issues, that have emerged after the Sokagakkai was formed. Discussion continues on issues of separation of politics and religion and freedom of religion.

At 0101 GMT, the discussion returns to the issue of political realignment. While Mori hints that continued cooperation between the LDP and SDPJ is possible, Kubo says: "Regarding whether the LDP and SDPJ can immediately merge into a new party, I feel that will never happen."

At 0105 GMT, the topic of discussion shifts to the next general election. Ichikawa urges early Diet dissolution and subsequent general election since a new electoral system has been adopted, and it is necessary "to correct the currently distorted political structure." Kubo backs early Diet dissolution, saying: "Political parties should always be prepared for elections." Mori stresses the importance of compiling the next fiscal budget over holding the next general election at an early date, saying: "I think that has priority over all other matters." Nakano takes a flexible stance on holding the next general election, saying: "That depends on how the next ordinary Diet session turns out." Hatoyama stresses there is no need for early Diet dissolution, saying: "Since the current LDP-SDPJ-Sakigake coalition government has the important task of carrying out administrative reform, I feel there is no need to hold a general election before this task is completed." Shii says he favors an early election to ascertain the people's confidence in the Murayama administration since many politicians have turned their backs on what they promised voters in the previous election.

Asked if Komeito plans to cooperate with the LDP regarding the upcoming Tokyo gubernatorial election or the NFP plans to endorse its own candidate, Ichikawa says that since the gubernatorial election is a local election, the issue would be left up to local party officials. Mori agrees with Ichikawa.

* Editorials Criticize Opposition's Diet Tactics

* Kaikaku Boycott Criticized

952B0011A Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 5 Oct 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Opposition Boycott of Deliberations Is Not 'Political Reform'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Is this what people who have continued to talk about "political reform" do? We have again been shown worthless political games. Political reform is probably, first of all, reform of these people's consciousness.

The state of the Diet, which argued in a circle, getting nowhere, because of confrontation between the ruling and opposition parties over such things as the appointment of the deputy speaker of the lower house, probably made the public's mistrust of politicians stronger and stronger. The unified parliamentary group "Kaikaku" [Renovation], which consists of opposition parties except the Japan Communist Party, and which boycotted the regular Diet session at which Prime Minister Muarayama's keynote address was given, made at least two mistakes by a string of hardline moves.

First is an error in the order of priority of matters with which politics should grapple. The function of the Diet, which is a gathering of the people's representatives, is legislation; it lies in the point of checking administration and government through debate for the purpose of legislation.

In that sense, it is to be expected that listening to the prime minister's keynote address and correcting questionable points was the most basic duty for Diet members. The appointment of the deputy speaker of the lower house is probably also important, but abandoning a more basic duty for that can probably not avoid a charge of irresponsibility.

Second is the point that the fact that the group which aims at a new party is an organization led by Ichiro Ozawa, chairman of the steering committee of the body preparing for the new party (secretary general of Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party]) became newly clear by the action of "Kaikaku" this time, and had the result of spawning discord within the group. This also affects the image of the new party.

What Ozawa was criticized for at the time of the Hosokawa and Hata governments was his high-handed political methods; it was the opaque quality of the decisionmaking process which was called a "dual power structure." What created the Murayama government is "anti-Ozawa" political energy; there is also the circumstance that Ozawa took responsibility and once expressed the intention of resigning from the post of party secretary general. But when one looks at the tactics of boycotting the regular session of the Diet at which the keynote address was given, and business trips to the provinces in the very middle of negotiations between ruling and opposition parties for the purpose of breaking the deadlock in the Diet, which is arguing in a circle and getting nowhere, it appears that things are virtually unchanged from then.

Under the 1955 setup, in which the Liberal Democratic Party boasted of an overwhelming majority, there may have been some situations in which opposition party boycotting of negotiations could be understood as a form of expression of will. But alteration of governments has already become a reality. It is time to stop the habitual action of stirring up political confrontation by boycotting negotiations.

What are particularly considered pending questions for the current session of the Diet are such things as the redistricting bill to introduce single-seat districts for the lower house, the Uruguay Round agreement and related bills, and bills related to reform of the tax system, all matters which would be difficult to become objects of political conflict between the ruling and opposition parties. Because the first two are, so to speak, items inherited from the Hosokawa and Hata governments, and in reform of the tax system also, there is no difference between the views of the ruling and opposition parties on the point of raising the consumption tax rate.

What the people of the nation seek from the Diet is high-quality policy debate on how to depict the state of Japan's tax system and agriculture in the future in relation to these items. The question of Japan becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council has also not yet been debated fully in the Diet.

In a certain sense it is natural that the Diet be a venue for political games. But the spectators will probably not consent unless it is developed based on a spirit of fair play, not political grudges.

* Policy Debate Urged

952B0011B Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 5 Oct 94 p 5

[Editorial: "Can They Have Contest by Policy Debate?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "What is the Diet doing, anyhow?" We heard here and there this criticism that is a cross between anger and ridicule. At the same time, the cry of distress: "Is this the new politics?" was also heard, so we were put into a dark mood. Because we also felt that it is suggesting the future of realignment of the political map.

Fortunately, they wasted only two days, and representative interpellation begins from today, 5 October. But there is danger of it happening again, so I would like to make a short request for future reference.

Judging from the fact that calls for self-examination on these "wasted Diet sessions" came from the opposition party side, which started it, it was not something that was praised. Of course there were a number of seeds for the confrontation, but they were converged in the Diet-composition problem of "hand over to the opposition parties!" the post of vice speaker.

The opposition, the forces of the former coalition, say that it is the practice of the Diet for "the speaker to belong to the ruling party and the vice speaker to belong to the opposition party." Certainly that is true of the last almost 20 years, but the period during which the government and the LDP monopolized the speaker and vice speaker posts was also about as long. Even if the demand, itself, is not improper, it is something for which a solution can be discovered if one discusses it in the Diet. It is not important enough to aggravate the rivalry by going so far as boycotting the government's keynote address. Have not most of the former coalition forces attacked the Diet boycotts of the SDPJ and so on until just recently?

We suspect that the opposition party side clung to the vice speaker post in order to stir up the coalition governing parties. If the vice speaker post went over to an opposition party, dissatisfaction would appear in the LDP because the speaker's post is held by someone from the SDPJ. They probably estimated that if chance favored them they would be able to make cracks inside the governing parties.

It has also happened frequently up to now that Diet tactics have aimed at damage to the other party. One can probably say that almost all the cases were backward-looking rather than forward-looking. That is precisely why it was criticized as "Diet affairs politics."

Now, one-party rule by the LDP has collapsed, a realignment of the political map is progressing, and it has been bandied about that an era of new politics is at hand. Every time politicians open their mouths they declare that the future will be a time of competition by policy. But when we look at the truth of the present confrontation between the ruling and opposition parties, that is suddenly difficult to believe.

Whether it be the ruling party coalition government or the forces of the former coalition, how much difference is there in the policies which they expouse? On the question of Japan becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council, which was considered a point of conflict in regard to diplomacy, their policies virtually became the same by the speech of Kono Yohei, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at the United Nations at the end of last month. Reform of the tax system, which was supposed to have been a point of contention in domestic politics, also ceased to have any great difference because the SDPJ for all practical purposes accepted an increase in the consumption tax rate. It is no exaggeration to say that all that exists are the catch phrases "kind government" and "responsible government."

Given that, if the opposition parties try to seek a force to hold them together, they will have to rely on low-order tactics like this time. If we take it that the future of realignment of the political map is on this level, how much meaning will the approximately 30 billion yen in taxes that will be paid to political parties each year after this possess?

The environment that surrounds Japan is certainly not tranquil and secure. Even Japan-U.S. friction, for example, has not been solved. Attention was taken by such immediate problems as Haiti, so there was little reporting in the United States, but the framework negotiations still hold the embers for kindling a fire.

Complications are also expected in the U.S.-North Korea talks, and military expansion in Asia is also a worry. Deterioration of the environment in that same region is also appalling. Even reform of the food control system involved in ratification of the new multilateral trade negotiations (Uruguay Round) will probably surely become a problem again in the near future.

Problems do exist. It is just that the majority of politicians do not view them as problems. Are not such things as fighting over the post of vice speaker very trivial?

* Rivalry of LDP's Kono, Hashimoto Intensifies

952B0034 Tokyo SEIKAI ORAI in Japanese Nov 94 pp 10-15

[Article by Hidenori Itagaki, political commentator]

[Text] *After seizing power, the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] has become invigorated. Rivalry is now open between Foreign Minister Kono and MITI Minister Hashimoto, who support the new LDP, and they are right on the verge of a power struggle. Faced with the next term presidential election, the movements of both men have become agitated.*

Rivalry Is Laid Bare at the Japan-U.S. New Economic Conference

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, LDP president (deputy prime minister), and MITI Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto are engaged in reckless competition with each other. Although from the time their party lost power until its restoration to power they were somehow able to get along, teaming up for battle as "bitter enemies in the same boat," recently the overt rivalrous attitude between these two men has become prominent. Eyeing the prospect of victory in the next general election after the Murayama coalition government accomplishes its mission as an "administration with a time limit," the battle for the post of prime minister in the next term is off to an early start. Both are greenhorn second-generation Diet members, and Kasumigaseki bureaucrats are brimming with interest to observe the battle to see who will emerge victorious in first attaining the position of prime minister in the next full-fledged LDP administration.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and MITI Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto traveled to the United States for the Japan-U.S. economic framework talks, and from 7 September to 8 September energetically engaged in negotiations and discussions.

In this Japan-U.S. economic framework talks, the U.S. side pressed the Japanese side, saying "if you don't accept our requests, we will invoke the Super 301 clause (sanctions and specifics on unfair trading practices)," for which they gave a deadline of the end of September. Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and Ryutaro Hashimoto visited the United States to try to find a good way to somehow get through this problem.

Ryutaro Hashimoto met with Trade Representative Kantor and others in Washington on 7 September. Among the issues of government procurement, insurance, automobiles and auto parts, the areas of automobiles and auto parts are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI].

Ryutaro Hashimoto transcended the areas under his jurisdiction and delved deeply into discussions about objective standards for government procurement, insurance, and even macroeconomic policy, among other things.

He seems to be utilizing his experience of his days in the Kaifu cabinet as finance minister in charge of finances, insurance, etc.

Ryutaro Hashimoto is the man best versed in policy in the Murayama coalition government, and he is also knowledgeable in economic policy. During his stint as finance minister, he attended numerous international conferences. Perhaps it is due to pride stemming from that which made Ryutaro Hashimoto say, "I hope you will not press too hard in talks with Foreign Minister Kono. I don't think he is prepared to do that this time. Instead, I intend to arrange so that it can be settled when the foreign ministers meet again at the end of September," thus indicating the Japanese side scenario and behind-the-scenes situation.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, prior to meeting with Trade Representative Kantor, had said that all discussion was finished, distinctly revealing the enthusiasm to allow MITI to take the lead.

However, it appears that Foreign Ministry bureaucrats, who were not informed of details of this meeting, were dissatisfied.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono has studied in the United States and his English is fluent. This skill was displayed when he talked very amiably with Trade Representative Kantor in English in front of reporters. Plenty of time was taken in their discussion together, which lasted for 50 minutes.

In contrast, in Kantor's talk with Ryutaro Hashimoto, which took about 30 minutes, there seemed to be an intention visible from time to time of trying to impress observers with the fact that they spoke together in a deliberate and, moreover, intimate manner.

It is well known that the Foreign Ministry and MITI have long had bad blood between them. The Foreign Ministry has the attitude of "leave everything about diplomacy to us because that area is our job."

MITI, on the other hand, has a sense of mission and pride that "we are the most knowledgeable about industry. We send bureaucrats out on loan to JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization), collect information, and work hard to promote Japan's trade."

Reflected in the view of the MITI bureaucrats is the idea that "the Foreign Ministry has no capacity to negotiate on the aspects of trade and commerce. The most they are capable of is ceremonial diplomacy."

In short, Japan's diplomacy, as it pertains to commercial policy, has become the "dual diplomacy" of the Foreign Ministry and MITI. It may seem easily solved if the Foreign Ministry were to absorb MITI, but in actuality things would not be so simple.

On that point, the history of the discord between both ministries is long, and competition between the foreign minister and the MITI minister is not just limited to Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and Ryutaro Hashimoto, and could never be considered a rare phenomenon.

The age in which Shintaro Abe, who sideslipped from the shuffled Suzuki cabinet where he was MITI minister to the first Nakasone cabinet as foreign minister, was able to be intimately acquainted with both ministries was uncommon.

Second-Generation Greenhorns Are Year of the Ox Combo

On the occasion of the observation of this prime ministerial sumo contest, it is pertinent that we review basic information about these two contenders.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, born on 15 January 1937, has been elected 10 times. MITI Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, born on 29 July 1937, has been returned 11 times. Since Yohei Kono was born earlier, he entered elementary school one year earlier, but both were born in the Year of the Ox.

It is interesting to note that LDP Deputy President Keizo Obuchi was born on 25 June 1937 and has been returned 11 times. Secretary General Yoshiro Mori was born on 14 July 1937 and has been returned nine times.

All four of these men in the LDP leadership were born in the Year of the Ox. That being the case, it may rather be more fitting to compare the prime minister's race to four oxen in a sumo match than to a horse race.

Yohei Kono is the second son of Ichiro Kono, who entered politics after being an ASAHI SHIMBUN journalist; Ryutaro Hashimoto is the eldest son of Ryugo Hashimoto, who entered politics after being a Finance Ministry bureaucrat; Keizo Obuchi is the second son of lower house Diet member Kohei Obuchi, so all three are second-generation Diet members. Because Yoshiro Mori's father had been a mayor, he could best be characterized as a second-generation politician.

Yohei Kono and Ryutaro Hashimoto share a point in common, namely, they will vicariously realize for their late fathers the dream of becoming "prime minister."

Ichiro Kono applied himself to political activities under Ichiro Hatoyama of the Japan Democratic Party [Nihon Minshuto] and, when Hayato Ikeda entered the University of Tokyo-affiliated hospital due to cancer of the larynx during his term as prime minister, fought with Eisaku Sato for the post of prime minister.

His bid was unsuccessful, however, as Hayato Ikeda, a former Finance Ministry bureaucrat, named Railways Ministry member Eisaku Sato instead of Ichiro Kono, who was a party member.

Moreover, because Eisaku Sato maintained power over a long term of seven years and eight months, Kono ultimately died gripped with an intense desire for power, thus losing his chance.

Ryugo Hashimoto was regarded as "future prime minister" material along with Eisaku Sato and Hayato Ikeda who, discovered by LDP leader Shigeru Yoshida (former prime minister), became politicians after having served as high-level bureaucrats. They were referred to as the three birds of the Yoshida school. However, he died suddenly on 20 November 1962.

Due to the above circumstances, both Yohei Kono and Ryutaro Hashimoto inherited the long-cherished ambition that their fathers were unable to realize.

Both deeply respected and loved their fathers, so landing the position of prime minister is their earnest wish.

However, a personality trait of people born in the Year of the Ox is that their movements are slow by nature. They are so sluggish in their actions that they will not easily move unless a fire is lit under them.

The LDP was defeated in the general election on 18 July 1993, and for a time after they entered the ranks of the opposition, perhaps due to being unused to life in the opposition, both Yohei Kono and Ryutaro Hashimoto continuously wore glum expressions resembling scowls. True to the adage that misery loves company, they sat side by side in the plenary session of the Lower House, whispering with hard expressions, giving the appearance that they were on good terms.

Ryutaro Hashimoto, characteristic of a Political Affairs Research Committee chairman steeped in policy, has published such works as "Vision of Japan" "Recapturing Political Power," among others, demonstrating his capability of carrying the power of the LDP.

Meanwhile, Yohei Kono has devoted himself mainly to party affairs, throwing all his energies in firming up the foundation for an LDP rebirth by stopping those who would leave the party, etc.

Even so, critical voices were heard within the party that "they are greenhorns who lack leadership ability."

In particular, most people among the group in the Miyazawa faction that supports Koichi Kato indicate an open attitude of non-cooperation in their words and actions with respect to Yohei Kono. "Why should we support Kono? We are the Koichi Kato clique," says twice-returned Diet member Nobuhiko Fukunaga.

The Existence of an "Anti-Kono" Group Surrounding President Kono

Even more severe were Accounting Department head and former Labor Minister Shunpei Tsukahara and national organizational committee chairman and lower house Diet member Takeo Hiranuma of the Mitsuzuka faction. These two made close daily contact with Shinji Sato, Obuchi faction financial affairs committee chairman and former transportation minister, to continuously thwart President Yohei Kono.

One can discern from unexpectedly odd places whether the LDP executives are maintaining solidarity as a group or whether they are scattered about all trying to trip each other up.

This is something with which I have direct personal experience. It was reported to me that when President Yohei Kono requested cooperation from party leaders as he was trying to issue the new book titled *LDP Message* (published by Data House) whose theme was rebirth of the LDP revolving mainly around President Yohei Kono, Shunpei Tsukahara, Takeo Hiranuma, and Shinji Sato hastily contacted each other in a move to mutually agree to "not cooperate."

In particular, at the office of Shunpei Tsukahara, he made it very clear: "I have contacted Takeo Hiranuma and Shinji Sato for consultation on this matter and we have decided not to cooperate this time."

As was later discovered, according to the LDP Public Relations Committee staff, it was revealed that "Shunpei Tsukahara, Takeo Hiranuma, and Shinji Sato are on friendly terms with each other. Their behavior is in lockstep and they even show up together to the Public Relations Committee," indirectly explaining the difficulty in interpersonal relations among Kono executives.

In addition, a non-cooperative attitude was indicated among LDP leaders by Kazuo Tanikawa, National Campaign Headquarters chief and former Defense Agency head.

Due to these circumstances, the new book took on a queer appearance.

That is to say, photographs of the leadership are shown immediately after opening the front cover, but the only photographs that could be printed were of the leaders who provided their photos.

Only seven did so: President Yohei Kono, Secretary General Yoshiro Mori, Political Affairs Research Committee Chairman Ryutaro Hashimoto, Executive Council Head Yoshiaki Kibe, General Affairs Bureau Chief Hideyuki Aizawa, Diet Policy Committee Chairman Sadatoshi Ozato, and Public Relations Committee Chairman Kaoru Yosano. Photographs of the others, even though they are leaders, were not included.

The LDP, after maintaining power over a long and stable period of 38 years, slipped down to become an opposition party, and although it is in the position of having to display potential power in hopes of regaining power, its members are embroiled in attempts to thwart each other, failing to recognize the gravity of their situation.

Not only that, even I was struck speechless by the attitude of not cooperating with the very President Yohei Kono that they themselves selected in the presidential election.

There have been voices filled partly by visions of despair that the LDP will be unable to regain power for the duration of this century. It did, however, barely manage to regain power, through, although it almost defies belief, a coalition with the SDPJ and Sakigake.

Although Secretary General Yoshiro Mori, who is in the position of controlling the party's aims, is being an exception by remaining in the party, the hard-working people who moved to restore power have entered the cabinet of the Murayama coalition government as bureaucrats as a grant of rewards according to individual merits. Even looking at this, one can infer who was cooperative with the Kono executives and who was trying to obstruct.

Among the seven people listed in the *LDP Message*, four have entered the cabinet, namely, Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, MITI Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, Education Minister Kaoru Yosano, and Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agency Director Sadatoshi Ozato. Assuming that Secretary General Yoshiro Mori's remaining in office is tinged with an element of being a reward for meritorious service, it would indicate that the distinguished efforts of the total of five men were recognized. Conversely, the non-cooperative group consisting of Shunpei Tsukahara, Takeo Hiranuma, Shinji Sato, and Kazuo Tanikawa were rejected.

The One Who Will Determine Murayama's Successor Will Be Former Prime Minister Takeshita

Public support of the Murayama coalition government is gradually strengthening, and even a public opinion poll by the ASAHI SHIMBUN (dated 21 September 1994) shows that the approval rate is 40 percent, which is greater than the disapproval rate. The sense of stability that comes from Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's personality and the fact that influential politicians have become Cabinet members has begun to be favored by the people. To this extent, the possibility is high that the Murayama administration will last until the next general election.

The problem is the time of the next general election, but the LDP, SDPJ and Sakigake, which are the ruling parties are estimating that it will be "1996 or later."

The reason for that is all the parties are experiencing financial problems. The LDP has not finished repaying a loan of 10 billion yen it borrowed from financial institutions at the time of previous general election. The SDPJ as well, since lower house Diet members have decreased by half, party earnings have likewise decreased by half, so it is in desperate financial straits. The New Party Shinto Sakigake [Harbinger] has not returned the 200 million in funds that party leaders Masayoshi Takemura and Yukio Hatoyama each borrowed for the 400 million yen that was necessary for formation of the new party and general elections. Each party is suffering in a loan hell. They want to face the general elections after being relieved of their burden by repaying everything at once with political party subsidies financed by taxpayers. Consequently, although the old coalition ruling parties advocate "holding general elections under a new election system by the beginning of the year if the small election districting bill passes," the Murayama coalition government side is trying to dodge this with all its might.

It is generally thought that former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita was for all intents and purposes the central figure who established the Murayama coalition government by joining the LDP and SDPJ, whose hostile relationship had been considered to be akin to oil and water.

This same Noboru Takeshita has said that in the event the Murayama coalition government could not last until the next general election, "we have not only Obuchi, but also Hashimoto and Kajiyama," giving the idea confidentially that he has no personnel problems. By "we" he meant the old Keiseikai, that is, the Obuchi faction.

These days Noboru Takeshita is building a hidden position as "kingmaker" in both name and deed, and is functioning as a "secret shogun" much in the same way that former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka and former Deputy President Shin Kanemaru once did.

It would not be an exaggeration to assert that the next prime minister will be decided depending on Noboru Takeshita's inclinations.

This statement of Noboru Takeshita's in which he seemed to be "talking to himself" has suddenly begun to excite the prominent figures of Keizo Obuchi, Ryutaro Hashimoto, and Seiroku Kajiyama. President Yohei Kono has been prompted as well.

Each of these individuals has taken an interest in "the post of prime minister." At this rate, reform of the LDP is the last thing that will happen.

In comparing Yohei Kono and Ryutaro Hashimoto from Noboru Takeshita's viewpoint concerning which one could be said to be closest to the post of prime minister, there is no question that Ryutaro Hashimoto who is "family," after all, would be favored. However, certainly because Yohei Kono is the incumbent president, he would have to be recommended as the top candidate to be prime minister who will represent the party. It is likely that Noboru Takeshita would like to remove Yohei Kono from his post as president.

After Noboru Takeshita was disqualified because of the Recruit scandal, he handed the position of prime minister to Sosuke Uno. After Sosuke Uno resigned after a mere two months due to the "three-point scandal" concerning problems with women, and the issue of who to make prime minister arose, he recommended "Ryutaro Hashimoto." However, because Shin Kanemaru vehemently opposed the notion of a Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, it did not come to pass.

Once the sensation of the Recruit scandal subsided, it is said that Noboru Takeshita embraced the ambition of wanting to once again take the seat of power.

That, at any rate, was a "favorable thing" for Ryutaro Hashimoto, and because he has not forgotten those feelings of Noboru Takeshita even now, he is closing up the distance between himself and Noboru Takeshita.

Can Kono Be Reelected in the Next LDP Presidential Election?

The reshuffling of Executive Council head Yoshiaki Kibe and Political Affairs Research Committee Chairman Koichi Kato in the three top-ranking personnel lineup this fall was debated inside the LDP.

Although President Yohei Kono particularly favored moving Political Affairs Research Committee Chairman Koichi Kato, who was put in the post to fill the remaining term of Ryutaro Hashimoto after he was transferred to become MITI Minister, because of the opinion that it would be better to avoid unnecessary confusion, his term was extended and it was decided that the personnel issue would be taken up once again in the January 1995 party convention.

The greatest milestone that will influence Yohei Kono's destiny is the next general election. If he is reelected, his chances of becoming prime minister will remain; if not, the probability will become fairly slim.

That is because if things go poorly, it is also possible that he would be unable to become prime minister if it were during his term as the 16th LDP president.

For the time being, Yohei Kono wants to prevent Koichi Kato, his greatest enemy in the Miyazawa faction to which he himself belongs, from distinguishing himself.

Yohei Kono has suddenly begun to expose his attitude of rivalry with respect to Ryutaro Hashimoto. Meanwhile, Ryutaro Hashimoto is not allowing him to get the upper hand and is counteracting as well.

Yohei Kono and Ryutaro Hashimoto, who at first glance seemed to get along, have exhibited behavior befitting that of worthy competitors since the time that the LDP became an opposition party.

The first indication came on the occasion of a roundtable session entitled "Can the LDP Really Be Reborn?!" in the LDP's 57th Special Party Convention on 29 September 1993, when the two had a heated exchange.

This has its origin in a press conference on 10 August 1993 after Morihiro Hosokawa became prime minister in which, when asked his view of wartime history, Hosokawa made the statement that "that war was a war of aggression and was wrong." Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa defended himself in his first plenary session of the extraordinary session of the Diet, saying "it was a frank expression of my feelings."

In contrast to Yohei Kono, who said about this issue that World War II "was a war of aggression," Ryutaro Hashimoto heatedly resisted that assertion. "Well then, what kinds of options were available to the nation's leaders at that particular time? While I think that there may have been a better method and there are various possibilities, I do not feel that the path the nation eventually selected at that time can just be neatly summed up as a war of aggression, even though looking back from the present one can say there was a better way."

After this Ryutaro Hashimoto seemed very angry.

Ryutaro Hashimoto is chairman of the Japan Aristocratic Association and feels that, even from that standpoint simply dismissing Japan's military behavior in World War II as a "war of aggression," would be an affront to those who died in action and to the aristocracy.

In contrast to this, Yohei Kono, who has long taken a stance of safeguarding the Constitution and has been known as a dove, appears to have no hesitation in calling it "aggression."

Although Ryutaro Hashimoto also espouses the concepts of safeguarding the Constitution and pacifism, apparently due to the difference in standpoint, Yohei Kono's statement touched a nerve and he reacted emotionally.

This brings to mind (then) section chief Shigenobu Tamura of the Political Affairs Research Committee office, who clearly stated that "our chairman and president have differing ideas, so they do not agree." Ryutaro Hashimoto's blood type is type AB, so although he is shy in some ways, he has a tendency to behave in such a way as to try to please everybody. Yohei Kono is type A and tends to be nervous.

When one considers these points, it really seems that both men have been trying to be agreeable with one another when they were placed in the position of being in the opposition.

Even so, the rivalry between Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and MITI Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto after all calls to mind the rivalry between Foreign Minister Takeo Fukuda and MITI Minister Kakuei Tanaka who competed for the post of prime minister and president in the third reorganized Sato cabinet.

For that reason the championship sumo match between these two oxen has finally become interesting.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono has made his debut toward becoming an international politician after his speech to the UN General Assembly which favored, with conditions, Japan's becoming a permanent member of the Security Council, resulting in the name "Yohei Kono" becoming known abroad.

North Korea

ROK's DLP Parliament Activities Criticized

SK0612101294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1003 GMT 6 Dec 94

["Height of One-party Solo"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 6 (KCNA)—The South Korean ruling "Democratic Liberal Party" [DLP] recently railroaded 47 "bills" including the "budgetary bill for the new year" and the "motion on the purchase of autumn grain" through the "National Assembly" session in less than three minutes in the absence of the opposition parties.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today brands this as the height of the rude one-party solo of the dictatorial "regime" and the party of gangsters and archetype of the surprise action at the "National Assembly".

The news analyst says:

Before the session of the "National Assembly", the traitor Kim Yong-sam openly ordered the "DLP" to force the bills through it, under the pretext of the "legal timelimit". On this order, the "DLP" clan deliberated on the "bills" at the "National Assembly standing committees" and rammed them through the session.

The "budgetary bill for the new year," one of them, is a very treacherous one which sets the military spendings more than 1,000 billion won higher than last year's. And the "motion on the purchase of autumn grain" is a "bill" to destroy agriculture and kill the farmers by ignoring the demand of the farmers and freezing the purchase price of autumn grain.

Facts show once again that the traitor Kim Yong-sam's "DLP" is a group of traitors who are clean indifferent to the security and peace of the nation and life of the farmers and people at large.

The one-party show played by Kim Yong-sam's "DLP" at the "National Assembly" in disregard of the demand of the people and the opposition parties proved again how hypocritical the "parliamentary democracy" and "parliamentary politics" advertised by them are.

The "DLP's" solo play at the "National Assembly" reveals the crisis, isolation and last ditch wriggle of the Kim Yong-sam "regime".

The Kim Yong-sam group will surely be driven to its miserable destruction by the powerful struggle of the people.

ROK's Plans To Buy Military Equipment Decried

SK0612101994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 6 Dec 94

["Reckless Arms Buildup"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 6 (KCNA)—The Kim Yong-sam group has decided to purchase 120 F-16 fighter-bombers from a "Lockheed" plant of the United States from mid-December this year to 1999, bringing twelve of them by April next year, according to a radio report from Seoul.

This fully shows that the Kim Yong-sam warlikers are escalating arms buildup aimed at unleashing another war against the North of the country.

As is known, they are buying large quantities of new-type weapons and war equipment from different countries including the United States for the "maximization of the combat power" of the puppet army.

Having shipped into South Korea Patriot missiles and Apache helicopters from the United States, the puppets are going to purchase its latest military equipment worth far more than 100 million dollars.

Not satisfied with this, the South Korean warmaniacs imported twelve CN-235m military transport planes from Spain and plan to purchase 190 Mistral anti-air missiles worth 200 million francs from France.

The facts clearly show that the puppets' war hysterics has been carried into extremes and they are running about recklessly to provoke a war.

Nowadays, the Kim Yong-sam group is seeking the pretext for their arms buildup in the "the North's scheme to provoke the South," a fiction. This is nothing but a sophism for justifying their attempt to provoke a war against the North.

What exists in the Korean peninsula today is not "the North's attempt to provoke the South" but the South's attempt to provoke a war against the North.

The Kim Yong-sam clique of warlikers is the source of a scourge of war to the nation.

The source of evils must be removed in time.

Meeting in Japan Urges North Ties Normalization

SK0212101294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, November 30 [date as received] (KNS-KCNA)—Representatives of various social strata of Japan including Professor Emeritus of Tokyo University Jiro Suzuki and Professor of Juo University Narihiko Ito who participated in a meeting demanding the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea held in Japan visited the Japanese prime minister's residence on November 22 and urged him to make active efforts for an early normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic ties.

The prime minister said it is abnormal that Japan has not yet normalized diplomatic ties with the DPRK though nearly 50 years have passed since the end of the war and he will have a visiting group sent to the DPRK at an early date.

Stating that he is determined to normalize diplomatic relations soon, he stressed he will strive to realise it as early as possible by resuming negotiations for this without preconditions.

Ghana, Guyana Urge Repatriation of Prisoners

SK0212102594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—The repatriation of old Kim In-so, Ham Se-hwan and Kim Yong-tae, unconverted long-term prisoners in South Korea, to the northern half of Korea was urged in Ghana and Guyana.

Addressing an inaugural meeting of the Ghana Committee for the Repatriation of Unconverted Long-Term Prisoners in South Korea to the Northern Half of Korea held in Accra on November 23, its chairman G.C. Quaynor Mettle [spelling of name as received], chairman of the Committee of Profession, Public Welfare and State Enterprise of the Ghanaian National Assembly, said that the South Korean authorities must renounce the policy of North-South confrontation, scrap the "National Security Law", an anti-reunification evil law, and accept the demand for the repatriation of the unconverted long-term prisoners without delay.

The meeting adopted a statement demanding the repatriation of Kim In-so, Ham Se-hwan and Kim Yong-tae to the North and decided to send it to the Amnesty International, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the South Korean authorities.

Llewelyn John, leader of the People's Democratic Movement of Guyana, in a letter to the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross on November 16 said that the repatriation of old Kim In-so, Ham Se-hwan and Kim Yong-tae to the North should have been realized long ago both in view of the international convention on POWs and of humanitarianism.

He demanded that the International Committee of the Red Cross exercise its influence upon the South Korean authorities for its realisation.

ROK Magazine Carries Pictures of Both Kim's

SK0212101094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—A magazine of Kyongbuk National University of South Korea carries a photo of the great leader President Kim Il-song's statue and a photo of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, said Japan's NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN.

The photos on the cover of the magazine recently issued by the editorial board of the General Student Council of the university in Taegu, drew the great attention of students.

'Irregularities' of Kim Yong-sam Government Noted

SK0312103494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 3 Dec 94

["NODONG SINMUN on Irregularities of Kim Yong-sam Group"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA)—The embezzlement of money collected in taxation and tax swindles of "officials" of Kim Yong-sam's "civilian government" have been exposed in Inchon, Puchon, Seoul and other areas of South Korea.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says:

This year, the South Korean people have paid taxes running into the astronomical figure of 59,000 billion won, or 1,349,000 won per head. Imposing such an exorbitant amount of taxes upon them means claiming the lives of the majority of the South Korean people who live from hand to mouth.

And "government officials" bite off mouthfuls of these taxes. Worse still, Kim Yong-sam has been on the spree day and night since he seated himself in "Chongwadae [presidential offices]." The fabulous amount of money used for the feasts are defrayed out of the "national funds."

There is little difference between Kim Yong-sam's squandering of "national funds" and "government officials'" misappropriation of money collected in taxation. Not only "the president" but "officials" of the lowest ranks are filling their own purses. This is a crime.

The situation demands that Kim Yong-sam and Co. must be removed and the antipopular reactionary social system be destroyed.

Kim Yong-sam Accused of Suppressing Farmers

SK0312045894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA)—The Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland issued its Information No. 665 on December 2 denouncing the Kim Yong-sam group for brutally suppressing the participants in a national rally of farmers with the mobilisation of 15,000 police when it was being held in Seoul on November 29.

The South Korean farmers held a peaceful rally and a street demonstration in protest against the freezing of the purchase price of autumn grain by the puppet clique when their existence is threatened by the authorities' rice market opening. This is a fully legitimate struggle to defend their elementary vital rights.

Nevertheless, the fascist clique cracked down upon the ralliers with the mobilisation of a huge police force according to a prearranged scenario. It is an unpardonable anti-popular and anti-democratic crime to prolong their power by violence, not minding whether the farmers die or survive.

The South Korean farmers will never tolerate the criminal scheme of the Kim Yong-sam group to take away even the rice cultivated by six million farmers at the sweat of their brow at a cheap price, as if it were not enough to pose a threat to their livelihood by the treacherous rice market opening, but will fight it out to push their demand for their vital rights.

'Righteous Struggle' of ROK Farmers Supported

SK0212050994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 2 Dec 94

["Absolutely Righteous Struggle"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—At the "national rally of farmers" recently held in Seoul the participants demanded the raise of the purchase price of rice and denounced the authorities for trying to force the ratification of the rules of the World Trade Organisation without taking any measure to protect agriculture.

NODONG SINMUN today views this as an absolutely righteous struggle to defend national dignity and safeguard the farmers' right to existence.

The news analyst says:

It is the Kim Yong-sam group itself that compelled the South Korean farmers and other people to rise in the struggle against the "government."

Though Kim Yong-sam had promised to "defend rice market," staking his "presidency," he sold off the rice market to outside forces, ignoring the vital interests of the farmers.

Upset by the growing complaints of the people against its treacherous acts, the Kim Yong-sam group advertised a "program of the development of farm and fishing villages" under the cloak of "internationalisation" and "increase of international competitiveness." However, this treacherous policy presupposing market opening inflicted greater misfortunes on the farmers.

This being the situation, the Kim Yong-sam group is dealing a new blow at the farmers by freezing the purchase price of rice. With the prices of farming materials jumping, the farmers can hardly make up for the production cost even if they do backbreaking labour all the year round. The Kim Yong-sam group's measure of freezing the purchase price shows that it does not mind even if agriculture comes to a total collapse and the farmers die.

Unless the Kim Yong-sam group is removed, agriculture of South Korea cannot survive, the farmers cannot eke out a living and the people cannot avoid suffering disasters as a scapegoat for outside forces.

Cameroonian Official Urges Repeal of ROK NSL

SK0112230894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2233 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 1 (KCNA)—Jean Pierre Ngambi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Cameroon, on November 22 sent a letter to the South Korean authorities demanding the repeal of the "National Security Law" [NSL] in South Korea.

The letter said that the "National Security Law" is one categorically opposing the aspirations of the people for freedom and democracy, which serves as a means for penalties which are rare to be seen in any place of the globe.

It stressed that the "National Security Law" is a great hurdle lying in the way of achieving the reunification of Korea and strongly urged the South Korean authorities to repeal the law.

ROK Effort To Block North-U.S. Talks Alleged

SK0612111794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1102 GMT 6 Dec 94

["Hanminjon Denounces Heinous Crimes of Kim Yong-sam Group in Obstructing DPRK-U.S. Talks"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 6 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) published an indictment on November 30 exposing and denouncing the heinous anti-national crimes of the Kim Yong-sam group in making desperate efforts to block and frustrate the DPRK-U.S. talks, Seoul-based Radio Voice of National Salvation said.

According to the indictment, the Kim Yong-sam "regime", from the first days after its appearance, has resorted to vicious manoeuvres to block contacts and negotiations between the DPRK and the United States, deviating from the national independent stand and tailing behind outside forces.

When it was agreed to hold the first round of DPRK-U.S. talks in New York through contacts between the two sides in early June last year, the Kim Yong-sam group lobbied to get a resolution "urging the DPRK to accept a nuclear inspection" adopted at a meeting of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency and hurriedly sent "Foreign Minister" Han Sung-chu on a trip to the United States, Japan and the U.N. Headquarters to lobby for the "adoption of a resolution of the U.N. Security Council".

When the first round of the talks was held successfully and historical DPRK-U.S. agreed conclusions were published, the traitor Kim Yong-sam entreated U.S. President Bill Clinton not to advance the DPRK-U.S. talks when the latter flew to Seoul in July last year in an attempt to block the second round of talks.

When the second round of talks was held and it was agreed to hold the third round in two months, he ran amock to have the U.N. "sanctions" taken crying that "sanctions of the U.N. Security Council will be applied, irrespective of the agreement reached between the North and the United States".

The Kim Yong-sam group barred the progress of the talks and brought the situation to a crisis of nuclear turmoil by instigating outside forces.

When the United States showed an affirmative response, stating that "it has the willingness readily to make efforts for a package solution at the third round of talks" on November 12 last year, Kim Yong-sam the puppet, quite upset, appeared before his master and entreated him to hold "the third round of talks after the South Korea-U.S. summit talks" amd asked him to use the "phraseology of 'thorough and broad approach' instead of the word 'comprehensive approach'".

When an agreement was reached on the early resumption of the third round of the DPRK-U.S. talks for a package solution to the nuclear issue at the contact between the two sides in New York on December 29 last year, Kim Yong-sam at the "New Year press conference" tried to stop his master, contending that "inter-Korean talks must be held without fail along with the inspection by the IAEA," "the United States has never used the word of a package solution" and "people should not be deceived by the swindle of the north".

On February 18 this year, he sent a "personal letter" to the U.S. President, asking him to "realize the exchange of special envoys before the third round of the DPRK-U.S. talks" and let Yi Hoe-chang, the then "prime minister," cry that "the postponement of the third round of talks and the resumption of the 'Team Spirit' exercises are natural, if the exchange of special envoys between the South and the North fails" to drive a wedge into the DPRK-U.S. talks.

The Kim Yong-sam group brought the tensions to the phase of international "sanctions" against the north.

The Kim Yong-sam "regime" on March 30 last year cried that "a phased and gradual tough step should be taken" and on May 10 driveled that all the states around the world should take an active part in the international 'criticism' of the north". And on February 11 this year, it brought forward what it called "proposal for taking sanctions against the north", which provided for "transference from the call for inspection to weak sanctions and then to tough sanctions" and discussed with the Japanese foreign minister "a plan of joint reaction of South Korea, the United States and Japan."

Kim Yong-sam at talks with the Japanese prive minister on March 24 let out the outcry that "it is inevitable to take a tough action against the North and that a solution should be found on the basis of a cooperative system of South Korea, the United States and Japan". On March 31 he called the U.S. President on the phone and "requested him to let China and Russia also join in the South Korea- U.S.-Japan cooperative system". And he let Han Sung-chu ask the U.S. Government to "forcefully push ahead with the adoption of a resolution tougher than the presidential statement of the U.N. Security Council" and solicited the president of the U.N. Security Council and the U.N. secretarty-general for "cooperation in sanctions".

With a view to keeping the United States from improving the relations between the DPRK and the United States, the traitor Kim Yong-sam committed the anti-national act of bringing the inter- Korean relations to a rupture by freezing them with various political moves.

The sudden death of President Kim Il-song who had set the stage for inter-Korean summit talks, a great national event for reunification, was the bitterest pain of loss, deepest grief and misfortune for the Korean nation.

Upon hearing the sad news, all the fellow countrymen mourned his death, wailing and beating the ground.

But, when the sad news was reported, the traitor Kim Yong-sam who even "practised hand-shaking" on the threshold of the summit talks, declared his abandonment of inter-Korean dialogue and confrontation policy, crying that "the questions of the time, venue and procedures of the summit talks should be discussed again from the original point" and he "was unwilling to propose first to promote the summit talks again".

After his suppression of those who wanted to mourn for President Kim Il-song, the Kim Yong-sam group brought the situation to the unprecedented pitch of strain by letting such a venal professor as the president of Sogang University make a bombastic statement about the "chuche idea faction", rigging up a "June 25 document" through the "Unification Board", spreading "rumor of the manufacture of five nuclear bombs by the North" through the "Agency for National Security Planning" and setting "cabinet" in motion to "take issue with human rights".

While trying to stay its master with the political commotions based on the tough policy against the North, the Kim Yong-sam group brought forward "absolute three preconditions" consisting of "the principle of guaranteeing the transparency of nuclear activities first and providing light water reactors next", "the principle of the leading role of South Korea in the provision of the light water reactors" and "the principle of parallel promotion of the improvement of the inter-Korean relations and that of the relations between the DPRK and the U.S." to put brakes on the successful conclusion of the DPRK-U.S. talks.

CHOSON ILBO in an editorial on September 3, 1994, said these three principles "are the maginot line' for the South Korean Government".

In sheer vexation at the collapse of the "maginot line" set by the South Korean rulers and the looming of the outline of the agreed framework at the DPRK-U.S. talks, the Kim Yong-sam group even bit at its master.

In an interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES on October 8, Kim Yong- sam expressed displeasure at the exclusion of South Korea from the DPRK-U.S. talks and criticised the U.S. President, crying that "the Clinton administration has no sufficient knowledge of the North", "it is inclined too much to compromise" and "it is being deceived by the North".

Despite such malicious and base anti-national manoeuvrings of the South Korean rulers to obstruct the DPRK-U.S. talks, a historical agreed framework for a peaceful solution to the nuclear issue and the improvement of the DPRK-U.S. relations was published at the talks on October 21 and the talks ended with success, leaving the Kim Yong-sam group of traitors in the miserable lot of "a dog barking at a cock on the roof."

A stern judgement by history and a heavy sledgehammer blow by the nation await Kim Yong-sam who finds himself an isolated orphan, driven out of the trend of the times while committing treacheries following foreign forces, without independence, the life and soul of a nation. History will certainly settle account with him for his heinous crimes.

Russia, Nicaragua Praise North-U.S. Accord

SK0212152194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—Kubtsov [spelling of name as received], first vice-chairman of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, when he met with the DPRK ambassador to Russia, said that the adoption of the framework agreement at the talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America is a great victory of the DPRK.

Judging from the political viewpoint, such a success was made because the international prestige of Comrade Kim Chong-il is high, he added.

Denis Giron Reyes [spelling of name as received], chairman of the Managua City Committee of the Social Democratic Party of Nicaragua, in a statement on November 19 said that the DPRK-USA agreed framework is a milestone in solving the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula and a document of historical significance in improving the protracted abnormal relations between the DPRK and the United States.

He demanded that the United States honestly implement its promises with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and that some impure forces stop putting the brake on the implementation of the framework agreement between the DPRK and the United States. The Nicaragua-Korea Friendship and Solidarity Society in a statement on November 21 pointed out that the DPRK-USA agreed framework is a document which made great progress for peace and security in the Korean peninsula, and, furthermore, the rest of the world.

'Stir' From Helms' Criticism of Clinton Viewed

SK0212110494 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0600 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports, remarks by Republican Senator Jesse Helms that U.S. President Clinton is not qualified as commander in chief of U.S. Forces has created a stir.

In a recently-aired TV program, Helms stated: I do not think Clinton is fit for to be commander in chief of U.S. Forces, and high-level officials in the Department of Defense agree.

He then told reporters that, since soldiers dislike Clinton, the President had better be escorted when he visits military bases.

The remarks by Helms, who is expected to be appointed chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee when the era of the new Republican-led Congress begins in January, has created a strong shock in political circles.

U.S. President Clinton refuted Helms' remark as unwise and inappropriate, and demanded that Republicans discuss Helms' credence. At the same time, political and press criticism of Helms has increased.

Saying the entire world has heard Helms' remarks, Senator Christopher Dodd of the Democratic Party denounced the remarks and demanded Helms officially apologize for degrading U.S. authority, and that the Republican Party leadership allow him do so.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Perry denounced Helms, saying his remarks could hurt relations between the commander in chief of the U.S. Forces and U.S. soldiers, and could further paralyze the President's command of the U.S. Forces.

The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff also denounced Helms' remark as improper.

A commentary in the newspaper USA TODAY denounced Helms for questioning the president's military control, and stated Helms will probably complicate the question when he becomes chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

THE NEW YORK TIMES noted his remarks caused indignation even in the Republican Party, and stressed the Republican Party should not appoint Helms chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and should retire him from political life.

Bob Dole, Republican leader in the Senate, said a series of recent remarks by Helms has not only deepened the gap between himself and the Republican Party, but might make Helms unable to be in charge of the party's foreign policy.

Kim Yong-sun Meets With Former U.S. Admiral

SK0212043694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0410 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 1 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, who is chairman of the Korean Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, met and had a friendly conversation in Pyongyang today with former U.S. Admiral Elmo Zumwalt and his party on a visit to Korea.

German Journalist, Korean Resident of U.S. Visit

SK0412081994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0805 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 4 (KCNA)—Werner Adam, editor in charge of the foreign policy of the German paper "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE", arrived here Saturday [3 December]. Son Won-thae, a Korean resident in the United States, arrived here on the same day.

Chongnyon Official Praises North Foreign Policy

SK0312045994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, December 1 [date as received] (KNS-KCNA)—Ho Chong-man, chief vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), visited the head office of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan on November 29 at its official invitation and gave a lecture at the society for diplomatic studies under the title "On Some Points of the Foreign Policy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea."

He said the DPRK's principled stand in its relations with the United States is that the DPRK would improve bilateral relations with the U.S. if the latter renounced its hostile policy towards the DPRK based on the position of strength and took a friendly attitude towards it in keeping with the trend and demand of the present time.

He said the crux of the matter in the improvement of the DPRK- Japan relations is the liquidation of the past between Japan, the offender, and the DPRK, the victim, and the fulfilment of Japan's political and material responsibility to Korea. "Without the solution of these issues, good- neighbourly and friendly relations in the true sense of the word cannot be expected," he stated.

"If the Japanese Government truly hope for the normalization of DPRK-Japan relations, it must approach the talks with a sincere attitude, not setting any precondition," he said.

Japanese Wrestling Delegation Interviewed

SK0312050894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA)—The delegation of the new Japan Professional Wrestling Co., Ltd. which has come to Korea for the Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace slated in April 1995 was interviewed by reporters here on Friday.

Present at the press conference was Kim Kwan-chol, vice- chairman of the State Commission of Physical Culture and Sports and director of the Secretariat of the State Preparatory Committee for the Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace.

Kim Kwan-chol, speaking first, declared that the Korean side had comprehensive and sincere discussions with the delegation of the new Japan Professional Wrestling Co., Ltd., the co-sponsor, in various fields for a success of the festival functions and reached a complete unanimity of views.

Tetsuo Baisho, permanent director of the new Japan Professional Wrestling Co. Ltd., said at the press conference that, his delegation, while staying in Korea, visited the May Day Stadium and was surprised at the grand scale of its size and facilities. He extended thanks to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il for his deep care for the preparations of the festival.

Head of the delegation Katsushi Nagashima, chief of the Planning Section of the Corporation, answering questions put by reporters, said that professional wrestling matches had been held in Brazil, Pakistan, Italy, China and other countries.

"Through the Korean visit, we have become convinced that the Pyongyang festival will be a grand function unprecedented in scale," he said, and stated: "We will do our utmost for a success of the festival."

He expressed thanks for the successful progress of the preparations for the festival in Pyongyang.

Brings Gift for Kim Chong-il

SK0212103994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader of our party and people, was presented with a gift by the delegation of the New Japan Professional Wrestling Co., Ltd.

Katsushi Nakashima, head of the delegation of the New Japan Professional Wrestling Co., Ltd. on a visit to Korea, handed the gift to an official concerned.

Meets With Peace Committee Head

SK0312051894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, who is chairman of the Korean Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, met and had a friendly conversation in Pyongyang Friday with the delegation of the new Japan Professional Wrestling Co., Ltd. headed by Katsushi Nagashima, chief of the planning section of the corporation, on a visit to Korea.

Present there was Yi Chong-hyok, vice-chairman of the Korean Asia-Pacific Peace Committee.

Film Showing Marks Laotian Founding Anniversary

SK0212050094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—The Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and the Korea-Laos Friendship Association arranged a film show here Thursday on the occasion of the 19th founding anniversary of the Laotian People's Democratic Republic.

Present there were Yi Chol-pong, minister of city management and chairman of the Korea-Laos Friendship Association, Chon Yon-ok, vice-chairwoman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, and other officials concerned and working people in the city.

The participants saw a Laotian documentary film.

Papers Commemorate National Day of Laos

SK0212101694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 2 Dec 94

["National Day of Laos Observed"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—Papers here today extend warm congratulations and greetings to the Laotian people on the 19th anniversary of their significant national day.

NODONG SINMUN in a signed article says:

The foundation of the republic enables the Laotian people to build an independent and prosperous new Laos as the genuine master of the country.

The building of a new society has been stepped up at a new stage in Laos.

Laos is striving to strengthen economic cooperation with neighbouring countries and achieve peace and stability of the region.

The Korean and Laotian peoples established the friendly relations long ago and have steadily developed them, and the friendship is developing at a new stage.

The Korean people are sincerely rejoiced over the achievements of the Laotian people in the building of a new society and express full support and solidarity for their cause.

MINJU CHOSON in a by-lined article says that the Korean people believe that the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Laos continue to develop and wish the Laotian people greater success in their struggle for building a new independent and prosperous society.

Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces Day Observed

SK0212102094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 2 Dec 94

["Day of Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba Observed"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate articles to the 38th anniversary of the landing of the Granma and day of Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba.

An article of MINJU CHOSON says that the officers and men of the People's Army and people of Korea warmly congratulate the officers and men of the fraternal revolutionary army and people of Cuba on this occasion.

It says:

The Cuban Revolutionary Army has in the past period firmly defended the independence and sovereignty of the country and the gains of revolution, courageously repulsing the repeated aggression, interference and blockade by the imperialists, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba.

The Korean people express firm solidarity with the heroic Cuban people in their just cause of defending staunchly the western hemispheric post of socialism against the anti-socialist moves of the imperialists.

No force can block the road of the revolutionary Armed Forces and people of Cuba who are vigorously advancing for socialism under the slogans "Let us defend the motherland, revolution, and socialist gains!" and "We can do what we decide to!"

The Korean people wish the Cuban Revolutionary Army greater achievements in its struggle for national defence.

Military Officials Attend Party

SK0312051294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA)—Arnaldo Fernandez Rodriguez, military attache of the Cuban Embassy in Pyongyang, gave a cocktail party at the embassy on Friday evening on the 38th anniversary of day of Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba.

Invited there were Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army [KPA] Kim Kwang-chin, vice-director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Pak Kyong-son, Admiral Kim Il-chol, Colonel General Pak Chae-kyong and Lieutenant General Pak Sung-won of the KPA and other officials conerned.

Diplomatic envoys and military attaches of different countries in Pyongyang were also invited.

Cuban Ambassador Jose Ramon Rodriguez Varona and his embassy officials were present.

Speeches were made there.

WPK Sends Greetings to People's Party of Guyana

SK0212103794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] today sent a message of greetings to the 25th convention of the People's Progressive Party of Guyana.

The message expressed the conviction that the convention would make a big contribution to the activities of the People's Progressive Party to strengthen itself and promote the democratic development and social progress in the country and the well-being of the people.

It expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties and the two countries would grow stronger and develop in conformity with the idea of independence, peace and friendship.

Foreign Minister Meets With Ivorian Ambassador

SK0212050294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam met and conversed with Anoh Koffi Patrice, newly appointed ambassador of Cote d'Ivoire to Korea, who paid a courtesy call on him on December 1.

Government, Cote d'Ivoire Sign Cooperation Pact

SK0212235294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2223 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—A general agreement on economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation and a trade agreement between the Governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire were signed in Pyongyang on December 2.

They were signed by Chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission Yi Song-tae and Cote d'Ivoire Ambassador to Korea Anoh Koffi Patrice.

Foreigners Praise Kim's 'Socialism Is a Science'

SK0312051094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA)—"Socialism Is a Science," a famous work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, has evoked worldwide repercussions.

Angel Castro Lavarello, chairman of the National Executive Committee of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru and chairman of the Peru-Korea Institute of Culture and Friendship, issued a statement after studying the work.

He said:

"The work of Comrade Kim Chong-il serves as a precious textbook of struggle which deals a heavy blow at the imperialists, the world reactionaries and opportunists who are clamouring about 'the end of socialism' and gives new confidence and courage to the world progressive people who are struggling for the victory of socialism, the cause of the independence of the popular masses.

"As Comrade Kim Chong-il said, socialism is the idea and the revolutionary banner of the popular masses struggling for independence. Socialism, a science, will surely emerge victorious."

Branko Kitanovic, general secretary of the New Yugoslav Communist Movement, in a statement he issued after studying the work, said it is of weighty significance in the development of the international communist movement at present that Comrade Kim Chong-il gave an answer as regards the scientific accuracy and truth of socialism.

Daud Baz, former chairman of the Nationalist Socialist Party of Syria in Lebanon, said:

"The exposition of the scientific accuracy and truth of socialism given by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il greatly inspires our struggle.

"We will wage a vigorous struggle for independence, looking up to socialism of Korea where the leader, the party and the masses are united in one mind, as a beacon of the hope."

Vladimir Tolstikov, chairman of the Central Council of the Russian Association for Friendship and Cultural Cooperation with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, said:

"Comrade Kim Chong-il is a respected, authoritative leader whose motto is 'believing in the people as in heaven'.

"His work serves as an immortal banner indicating the way of reviving socialism. Comrade Kim Chong-il is the most veteran leader in the world."

Speaking at a meeting, Ph. Dr. and Prof. Aleksandr Kovalyov of the Moscow University and Ph. Dr. Aleksandr Kapto of the Institute of Socio-political Affairs of the Russian Academy of Sciences said his work gives perfect answers to the questions an urgent solution of which is awaited by humankind now. They stressed in their speeches that it indicates the way of the future development of philosophy and makes clear how socialism is built and who it is built for.

Foreign Media Publish Articles on Kim Chong-il

SK0212045894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—Foreign media have published articles praising the greatness of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The Nepalese paper THE VOICE said in an article titled "Kim Chong-il, the supreme leader of the Korean people":

"While guiding all the work of the party, the state and the army, Comrade Kim Chong-il authored 'On the Fundamentals of Revolutionary Party Building,' 'On Some Questions in Understanding the Chuche Philosophy' and many other works of theoretical and practical significance in party and state building and social development.

"He is perfectly versed in all fields of the revolution and construction not only ideologically and theoretically but practically.

"The monumental edifices built in all parts of Korea, the strengthening and development of the revolutionary Armed Forces and the fully efflorescing art of chuche are associated with his feats of leadership.

"He is the source of the hope for and the conviction of the future not only for the Korean people but for the world peaceloving people aspiring after socialism."

The Nicaraguan radios broadcast an article introducing the ideological and theoretical activities of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Noting that the revolution and construction are making a long drive in Korea thanks to his wise guidance and outstanding ideas and theories, the radio said:

"What characterizes Comrade Kim Chong-il's ideological and theoretical activities is, first of all, that he inquires into all the ideas and theories on the basis of the revolutionary practice in the present era and evolves them in a unique way.

"His ideological and theoretical activities are profound and encyclopedic and they are conducted in the interests of the people. His ideas and theories reflect the aspiration and desire of the people.

"The development and enrichment of the socialist idea today are unthinkable apart from his ideological and theoretical activities."

The Thai paper SIN CHONG YUAN PAO, the Egyptian people [as received] Al Shababul Arabi, the Nepalese magazine PRATIDHWANI, the Peruvian paper PATRIA ROJA and the Nigerian TV also introduced the greatness of Comrade Kim Chong-il under the titles "His Excellency Kim Chong-il, Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army," "His Excellency Kim Chong-il Is the Supreme Leader of the Korean People," etc.

Report on Work About Socialism

SK0212045994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—"Socialism Is a Science," a famous work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, was carried by the Syrian paper NIDA AL CHAAB, the Nigerian paper CHAMPION and the Yemeni paper AS-RAI AL-AAM.

Broadcasting the full text of the work, the Nicaraguan Radio America said:

"His Excellency Kim Chong-il of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is not only a great leader but an outstanding thinker and theoretician.

"His ideological and theoretical activities are playing a decisive role in the development of the socialist idea and theories in the present time. His work has evoked a worldwide repercussion."

The Nepalese papers NEPAL NEWS and SUPER NEWS TIMES daily carried the work "The Workers' Party of Korea Organizes and Guides All the Victories of Our People."

Kim Chong-il Thanks Disabled Soldier, Officials

SK0312045094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA)—Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader of our party and people, extended thanks and sent gifts to Chong Hyong-chu, a special-class disabled soldier, residing in Namsan-tong, Haeju, South Hwanghae Province, and officials who actively helped him.

Chong Hyong-chu was wounded while defending a frontline post after joining the People's Army. Determined to become a revolutionary poet upholding the party, he made energetic efforts for over ten years till he wrote the poem "Song of Praise to the Motherland" and more than 20 other poems.

For many years, he actively encouraged builders and soldiers to new innovations by visiting them with his wife.

Kim Tok-su, secretary of the primary party committee of the Haeju disabled soldiers' fountain pen factory in South Hwanghae Province, Paek Hwa-chon, a room chief of the South Hwanghae provincial library, and other officials helped Chong Hyong-chu become a poet loved by people, looking after him and his family with kindred feelings.

Kim Il-song 'Revolutionary' Chuche Idea Lauded

SK0512130694 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0940 GMT 5 Dec 94

[Unattributed talk: "The Great Leader's Revolutionary Idea Is the Very Idea of Dear Comrade Leader"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the world's revolutionary people, not to mention our people, are actively following and learning from the chuche idea—the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary idea—and are vigorously marching forward along the road of independence under the banner of the chuche idea.

The respected leader's revolutionary idea is more powerfully winning the hearts of mankind aspiring for independence as time passes, and its pulling power has further increased.

The chuche idea—the great leader's revolutionary idea—is brilliantly shining as the guiding idea of our era—the era of independence—because the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is unswervingly defending and protecting the leader's [suryongnimui] revolutionary idea and constantly deepening and developing it.

The respected leader's revolutionary idea has been brilliantly inherited by the dear comrade leader, who is a genius of ideology and theory, and is being deepened and developed by him. Thus, the leader's [suryongnimui] revolutionary idea became the very revolutionary idea of the comrade leader.

The respected leader's revolutionary idea became the very revolutionary idea of the dear comrade leader because the idea of the comrade leader is, above all, the idea which inherited, deepened, and developed the leader's [suryongnimui] chuche idea.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: I put forward the chuche idea by reflecting the demand of our revolution and aspirations of the people of the new era of independence. By assuming this idea as a guideline, I led the revolution and construction. However, I did not pay much attention to the issue of comprehensively systematizing the principle of the chuche idea. This issue has been brilliantly achieved by Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The leader's [suryongui] revolutionary idea is to be inherited, developed, and enriched by the successor who is endlessly loyal to the leader [suryong].

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has attained both military and literary achievements, carried out ideological and theoretical activities with uncommon pursuit power [tamguryok] and energy. Thus, he comprehensively systematized the principle of the chuche idea, which constitutes the essence of the great leader's revolutionary idea, and developed and enriched this idea with new principle and new theses, thus achieving the historic cause.

He has expounded the philosophical principle that men are the masters of everything and decide everything, and the principle of society and history that the popular masses are the driving force of society and history, and the social and historic movement is an independent and creative movement of the popular masses. In this principle, he also elucidated that the power of pushing for the movement lies in the independent ideological consciousness of the popular masses, and consists of guiding principles of revolution and construction. As the result of this, the chuche idea has been shaped as a perfect guiding idea of the revolution in the era of independence with an orderly composition system, and its historic position has been enhanced to a great extent.

The dear comrade leader has not only comprehensively systematized the principle of the chuche idea, but is also deepening and developing the chuche idea with new principles and new theses.

The dear comrade leader's idea and theory on the superiority and invincibility of our socialism, which is based on the idea of the driving force of the revolution and on the chuche-oriented traits and position toward the popular masses, are the outstanding idea and theory that deepened and developed the social and historic principle of the chuche idea that the popular masses are the masters of everything in society and are a basic motive power of social development.

Thus, the dear comrade leader's revolutionary idea is the inheritance of the chuche idea and is the idea which has been constantly deepened and developed.

Herein lies one of the reasons that the great leader's revolutionary idea became the very revolutionary idea of the dear comrade leader.

The respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary idea became the very revolutionary idea of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il because the two equally assume the chuche idea as a methodological basis in developing the revolutionary theory and theory on the method of leadership.

The chuche idea is a guideline which enables us to most precisely resolve all theoretical and practical problems raised by the time and revolution.

All theories, strategies, and tactics put forward by the great leader and the dear comrade leader, ranging from the theory of party building and of building of the state to the theory on socialism, are revolutionary theories that have been developed with the popular masses as the center, and are strategies and tactics that were expounded on the basis of the role of the popular masses.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song created the chuche idea and based on this, developed a theory on socialism in a unique way. This theory on socialism is the most scientific, popular mass-centered and chuche-based theory on socialism which is different from previous theories.

In his recently published immortal classical work, "Socialism Is a Science," the dear comrade leader has profoundly proved scientific nature, truthfulness, superiority, and invincibility of the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style based on the chuche idea. Thus, he has further deepened, developed, and perfected the great leader's chuche-based theory on socialism.

The theory on leading the masses is an ideological theory which was elucidated anew in the great leader's [suryongnimui] revolutionary idea.

Based on the chuche-based principle of resolving all problems by firmly trusting the might of the popular masses and by depending on their might, the great leader [suryongnim] created the Chongsanri spirit and Chongsanri method, and popularized them in socialist construction. Thus, he created the most correct theory on leading the masses.

The dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is constantly glorifying the great leader's idea and achievements in leading the masses, put forward the idea and theory that the popular masses' independent ideological awareness decides everything, and has embodied them. Thus, he developed and enriched the chuche-oriented theory on leading the masses.

Indeed, the theory on revolution and the theory on leading masses, which constitute important parts of the respected leader's revolutionary ideas, have been extensively inherited and broadly and deeply developed today by the dear comrade leader. They are being further enriched. This is the very reason that the great leader's revolutionary idea became the very revolutionary idea of the dear comrade leader.

The dear Comrade Kim Chong-il is the most outstanding thinker and theoretician in the era of independence who is unswervingly defending and protecting the great leader's revolutionary idea and is constantly deepening and developing it. It is our greatest honor and blessing to uphold him as the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and people.

Because there is the dear comrade leader, our party and people can more unswervingly fight by assuming the chuche idea—the great leader's revolutionary idea—as the everlasting guiding idea of our revolution.

Because the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is brilliantly illuminating the victorious future of socialist cause—the popular masses' cause of independence—based on the chuche idea, the world's revolutionary people, not to mention our people, are confidently and vigorously marching forward without wavering from any antisocialist frenzy and storm.

Our people are upholding the idea and leadership of the dear comrade leader with loyalty and filial piety by assuming the respected leader's revolutionary idea as the guiding ideology. Thus, we will expedite without fail the chuche revolutionary cause and the historic cause of national reunification.

More on National Meeting of Labor Officials

SK0212234794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2221 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—A national meeting of labour administration officials was held here over December 1-2. The meeting reviewed the achievements and experience in labour administration and discussed the tasks and measures to improve labour administration as required by the revolutionary economic strategy of the party, defend the socialist labour system of Korea, exalt its advantages and vitality and thus push ahead with economic construction.

It was attended by Vice-president Yi Chong-ok and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Han Song-yong, who are Politburo members of the WPK Central Committee, and other party and government officials, senior officials of central and local party, administrative and economic organs, officials concerned and model labour administration officials from across the country. The participants held a silent tribute to the memory of the respected leader President Kim Il-song.

Han Song-yong conveyed a congratulatory message of the WPK Central Committee to the participants of the meeting. The message noted that the labour administration officials turned labour administration into work with people, political work and energetically worked to establish a revolutionary style of labour throughout society under the guidance of the party, and that the working people could devotedly work for the party and the leader, the country and the people at their posts. The officials also contributed to promoting socialist construction and changing the looks of the country through a rational organisation of public labour and an effective utilization of labour resources, and made great achievements in firmly protecting the labour of the working people and providing them with more stable and cultured work conditions and affluent and civilized living conditions, the message said.

The WPK Central Committee in the message highly estimated the labour administration officials for their active contribution to the successful implementation of the labour policy of the party.

Hong Song-nam, alternate Politburo member of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premier of the Administration Council, made a report at the meeting.

The reporter said: "The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, on the basis of the profound principles of the chuche idea, gave flawless answers to all theoretical and practical questions in socialist labour administration such as guiding the working people to take a communist attitude toward labor by giving precedence to political work, rationally using labour resources and strictly applying the principle of socialist distribution according to the quantity and quality of the work done.

"The great leader was the first in history to institute a perfect chuche-orientated socialist law on labour, and he wisely led the work to carry it into effect and firmly built the best socialist labour system in Korea.

"Comrade Kim Chong-il, the dear leader of our party and people, who is creditably carrying forward the revolutionary cause of the great leader, saw to it that labour administration was constantly improved to meet the requirement of the modelling of the whole society on the chuche idea. As a result, labour administration has been strengthened into a work of our style in which man's idea is regarded as basic, in compliance with the intrinsic demand of socialist society and the most popular work in which the state looks after the labour of the working people in a responsible manner.

"On the occasion of the 80th birthday of the great leader, measures were taken to increase the wages of the workers, technicians and office employees by 43.4 percent and the pensions of those under social security by 50.7 percent on an average and radically raise the income of the farmers. Over the last 15 years, the state's expenditure for social insurance has jumped remarkably so that all the working people enjoy greater state and social benefits than the income shares according to the work done." [sentence as received]

The reporter said the achievements must be consolidated and expanded to further exalt the true advantages and vitality of the socialist system of Korea.

Speeches were made at the meeting.

The speakers said that in the course of the development of labour administration in Korea the originality and great vitality of the chuche-orientated labour policy of the Workers' Party of Korea have been brought into full play.

They stressed the need to bring about a new turn in labour administration to fulfil the tasks advanced in the congratulatory message of the WPK Central Committee and thereby actively contribute to the implementation of the revolutionary economic strategy of the party.

A letter of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting.

Advancing of Chuche Socialist Cause Urged

SK0512071294 Pyongyang MINJU CHOSON in Korean 18 Oct 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Let Us Vigorously Advance the Chuche Socialist Cause, While Upholding the Dear Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's Leadership"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been 100-odd days since the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the great man of the century and all people's father, passed away unexpectedly and regrettably.

The image and brilliant name of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song have been cherished more deeply in our people's hearts during the extremely bitter days of the biggest sorrow and greatest loss that history has ever known and that the world has ever suffered.

What happened in the past 100-odd days has made the world again clearly realize that the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song was a matchless great man and the revolution's great leader, who won the people's absolute reverence and boundless admiration.

From the mourning period until today our people have fully displayed the lofty spirit of sincerely revering and loyally upholding their leader [suryong].

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has pointed out:

"Our people are truly noble people who have the idea and sentiment and spiritual and moral trait of revering and upholding their leader [suryong], which people of other countries of the world do not have."

During the mourning period a total of 212 million people from all walks of life paid a visit to the bier, statues, plaster figures, and portraits of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, artistic works depicting the leader [suryongnim], and on-the-spot teachings boards; expressed their condolences; and formed a sea of sorrow, tears, and pledges. After the mourning period, waves of people swarmed to Mansudae Hill, statues of the fatherly leader [suryongnim], monuments to historic sites, and monuments to on-the-spot teachings found at historic places.

During the mourning period almost 500 heads of state and government and party leaders of 160-odd countries sent condolence messages to us, and high-ranking officials of political and military sectors, organizations of public, academic, and economic sectors, individuals, and international and regional organizations sent 4,000-odd condolence messages.

It is a matter of course that the hearts of all fellow countrymen and mankind are filled with regret and pain from the irreparable loss of the great leader, the great sun, who should not have passed away, for the sake of the completion of the cause of the socialism of our own style, the fatherland's reunification, and a victory in the cause of achieving independence in the world.

The past 100-odd days were days when the true picture of socialist Korea, where the leader [suryong] and the people and the leader [yongdoja] and the revolutionary warriors have achieved inseparable harmonious unity, was demonstrated in the noblest fashion.

The respected and beloved leader, who considered the people like heaven, upheld them as teachers, devoted himself to the people for 80 years, and worked for the people's happiness and future even when his heart beat for the last time, was always in the people's hearts.

The respected and beloved leader brought about achievements, which will remain brilliant for ages to come, with the immortal guiding ideas on the revolution, outstanding leadership, and boundlessly lofty virtue and, thus, provided the people with the noblest ideology, the most outstanding world, the most valuable lives and happiness, and a bright future.

The respected and beloved leader truly was the sun of the fatherland and the nation and mankind and the revolution; a great fatherly embrace out of which the working people cannot live even for a moment; and a banner of victory and honor that inspired the popular masses to worthwhile struggles and heroic feats.

Therefore, our people fully entrusted their destiny to the respected and beloved leader and upheld him with the sentiment of absolutely pure and clean reverence and boundless admiration. They also consistently believed and followed the leader [suryongnim] and steadfastly walked along the single revolutionary road.

The ideological and volitional relations and moral relations between the leader [suryong] and the people and between the leader [yongdoja] and the revolutionary warriors, which were built during the cultivating period of our revolution and which have been consolidated into a brilliant tradition through generations of the revolution, still cast their rays as the purest and strongest harmonious unity unseen in any history or in any country.

When the astoundingly sad news was announced, the entire land turned into a sea of sorrow and a powerful wave of tears, and endless rows of men and women from all walks of life, People's Army soldiers, overseas compatriots, and foreign guests swarmed day and night into the place of the mourning service where the fatherly leader Comrade Kim Il-song's bier was placed and the sacred places containing the leader's [suryongnim] statues. On the day of the memorial service, people pounded the ground and cried bitterly at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall and along the 100-ri streets of the capital. This was a very woeful scene never before seen in the 5,000-year national history and the centuries-old history of mankind. Even after the mourning period was over, people continuously visited the respected and beloved leader's statues night and day, presented wreaths and bundles of flowers to the statues, observed a moment of silence, and decorated the statues. This is a historic picture that only our people who uphold the respected and beloved leader as their blood father can unfold.

During the 100-odd days since the mourning period began up until today our people have more keenly realized that the fact they have upheld the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on the vanguard of our party and revolution for decades is very fortunate and boundlessly honorable and that they are blessed with the leader [suryong]. The people cannot help admiring the immortal achievements of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who resolved most brilliantly the issue of inheriting the revolutionary cause. They also keenly feel how fortunate and proud they are because they are blessed with the leader [suryong], even though they are in unbearable sorrow and pain.

Because our people are such people, they have not been able to fall asleep while thinking of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who felt the sorrow of the nation and the indignation of all people.

When the people saw the haggard look of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on television, they felt sorry for that and sent him letters containing their fervent pledges on loyalty and filial piety and consolidated their determination to become fortresses and shields to resolutely defend the dear comrade leader, eternally uphold him at the head of our party, state, and revolution and follow him. Moreover, in response to the trait that our people showed during the mourning period, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il gave an undeserved assessment, saying that our people are truly good people and noble people who have the idea, feeling, and spirit, and morality of admiring and upholding their leader [suryong], unlike people of any other country. As a result, the ardent loyalty of the people and Army toward the supreme comrade commander was again heightened more warmly and strongly. This powerfully proves how noble a height our people's ideological and spiritual trait has reached.

The past 100-odd days were days in which our people demonstrated their will to turn the great sorrow and pain from their loss into strength and courage, thoroughly implement the respected and beloved leader's behest, and complete the chuche revolutionary cause to the end.

The tears of sorrow that our people were shedding ceaselessly were tears of pledges.

The unanimous determination of loyalty that our people and Army forged in tears is to more strongly unite around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and people; accelerate revolution and construction with several times greater single-minded loyalty, which they could not fully display when the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song was alive; hasten the fatherland's reunification; and brilliantly complete the socialist cause.

As a result of practicing these burning pledges, unprecedented innovations have been achieved in the overall struggle to accomplish the party's agriculture-first, light industry-first, and trade-first policy, as well as in the preceding sectors of the people's economy; and young men and women of the new generation have done unprecedentedly commendable acts of petitioning to be allowed to advance into the sectors of difficult and arduous labor, such as coal mines, other mines, cooperative farms, and posts of national defense.

In particular, our people's burning single-mindedness to better uphold and follow the great General Kim Chong-il has been more tenaciously firmed up with the passing of the days, which are filled with sorrow and longing.

Because the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is standing at the head, even when the people were feeling such matchless sorrow and pain of loss, they were able to overcome all of the unexpected misfortune and pain—which they felt as if the heaven were falling down and as if the earth were sinking under their feet—with their willpower, and turn their sorrow into strength and courage; and our revolution, our-style socialist cause, has been able to forcefully march forward along the straight track of chuche without the slightest stagnation and stalemate.

At the present moment, with the conviction that "the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is forever with us," our people are vigorously marching forward to realize the fatherly leader's noble, lifetime wishes, following the wise leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught: "The entire party and all people should uphold well Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership to defend our country's socialism centered upon the popular masses and brilliantly accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche. A firm guarantee to inherit and accomplish the socialist cause lies in upholding well Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership."

The question to uphold well the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership was the most important and precious of the last wishes of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song; and to thoroughly accomplish this noble wish is the boundlessly important duty of our functionaries and all workers.

A decisive guarantee to triumphantly inherit and accomplish the socialist cause lies in upholding well the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership.

Today, for our people who are enjoying the blessing of having the great leader [suryong] from generation to generation, there is no duty that is more glorious and responsible than to faithfully uphold the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership.

All functionaries and workers should better uphold the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership in conformity with the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's lifetime wishes, thereby vigorously advancing the cause of our-style socialism centered upon the popular masses.

What is most important in this point is that all functionaries and workers should more firmly consolidate their rock-firm conviction and will to uphold and follow the great General Kim Chong-il to the end of the world and safeguard him in a death-defying manner, while harboring the absolute sense of worshipping [sungbae] the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il; the comrade leader is the leader [suryongnim].

Due to the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, the fatherland, the people, and the socialist cause exist.

Our functionaries and all workers should uphold and follow the comrade leader with single-mindedness and resolutely defend and safeguard him with their life politically and ideologically, while harboring the thorough-going conviction that the dear Comrade Kim

Chong-il is the fate of the fatherland and the nation; the banner of struggle, advance, victory, and glory; and everything in the bright future.

While making our sense of loyalty and filial piety to the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il a conviction, a conscience, and a moral on a daily routine basis, we should thoroughly prepare ourselves to become genuine loyalists and dutiful sons who think and act only in conformity with the great General Kim Chong-il's ideology and intention at any place and at any time.

The dear Comrade Kim Chong-il is the only matchless center of unity of our party and the revolutionary ranks; and the supreme form of brain of the revolution.

As those of the first generation of our revolution victoriously cut their way through the bloody road of the Korean revolution in the single-hearted unity around the leader [suryongnim] while upholding the great Comrade Hanbyol as the center of their unity, all people should consolidate, as firm as a rock, the unity of ideological and moralistic will in our revolutionary ranks—at a nobler level—firmly rallying around the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, thereby adding endless luster to the tradition of the single-hearted unity, the perfect harmony.

At the same time, we should more thoroughly establish a revolutionary discipline and order—in all sectors and all units—of uniformly moving under the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership, and firmly establish a revolutionary way of unflinchingly accomplishing the dear comrade leader's lines and policies at the right moment with an absolute and unconditional spirit.

The question to forcefully press ahead with the socialist construction is a militant task facing our people today.

The loyalty and filial piety of the functionaries and workers upholding the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership should be highly displayed not in words, but in the vigorous struggle for socialist construction. We can never think of the sense of loyalty to the leader [yongdoja] without thinking about a practical struggle to resolutely defend and safeguard, and add endless luster to our-style socialism.

All functionaries and workers should reliably defend the posts of socialist construction assigned to them and uphold the party by achieving brilliant successes in production and construction with the high sense of loyalty and responsibility, while harboring the spirit displayed by the ten party members of Nagwon in the days of the fierce war, and the spirit and mettle shown by the working class of Kangson in the difficult postwar days.

In particular, they should fully display their strength, wisdom, militant spirit, and courage in carrying through the party's revolutionary economic strategy, and more highly demonstrate the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. In this way, they should realize the party's agriculture-first, light industry-first, and trade-first policy; give solid priority to the electricity industry, coal industry, and railway transport; and achieve a decisive advance in continuously developing the metal industry.

At the present moment, they should also concentrate all of their strength on accomplishing the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's last wishes, thereby bringing the fatherly leader's lifetime wishes into brilliant bloom in reality.

Our functionaries are those who should set better examples than anyone else in upholding the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Functionaries are the leading officials of the revolution and the hard-core forces of the party and the state who have grown up in the midst of trust and love of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Under the condition in which our people's ideological and spiritual state is good and their enthusiastic loyalty of upholding the party and the leader [suryong] is extraordinary, all successes and victories of the revolution and construction depend importantly upon the functionaries' attitude, position, and their way of carrying out work.

The functionaries of the power organs and the administrative and economic organizations at all levels should faithfully fulfill their duty as the leading officials of revolution in conformity with the high revolutionary enthusiasm and militant mettle that have been continuously heightened during the latest mourning period and the ensuing period.

Functionaries should display the boundless self-sacrificing spirit and the creative activity with the thoroughgoing conviction and resolve to die while defending to the end the posts of revolution that the party has assigned to them, thus improving, in an epoch-making way, the people's livelihood during the period of adjustment and brilliantly realizing the party's plan and its revolutionary intention to consolidate a new base of offensive to conquer a higher peak of socialism.

They should meticulously plan the organization and command of the combat, while thoroughly embodying, in all works, the Chongsan-ri spirit, the Chongsan-ri method, and the demands of the Taean Work System.

"Serving the people!" This is the party's consistent slogan; and the party's demand is that functionaries not be distant from the masses even for a moment.

Our functionaries should always go deep down into the masses and share joy and sorrow with them; arouse the workers to achieving innovations and feats with the bold and audacious operations, skillful command, and the powerful political work; become the standard bearers who will be the first to achieve a breakthrough of advance in carrying out the difficult and arduous work; and become people's genuine servants who enjoy the love and respect of the masses.

As long as the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and people Comrade Kim Chong-il—the matchlessly great man with both literary and military accomplishments, and with loyalty and filial piety; the genius of revolution; and the ever-victorious, iron-willed brilliant commander—is standing at the head, our people's struggle will always shine with victory and glory; and the socialist cause of chuche will display its might of sure victory and invincibility today and in the future, too.

Let all of us hold high the revolutionary banner of the chuche idea and vigorously advance the cause of our-style socialism centered upon the popular masses, upholding with loyalty the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership and more firmly rallying around the great General Kim Chong-il!

New Scientific Research Center Opens

SK0212152094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1509 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—One more modern scientific research centre has made its appearance in the scenic eastern district of Pyongyang, the capital city of Korea.

Called the Children's Nutrition Research Institute, this architecture of peculiar style is a combined specialized research center for children which has been built according to the noble intention of the great leader President Kim Il-song in his lifetime.

The five-storied building of the institute is so bright and fascinating as to represent the happy life of children who are coming into full bloom like beautiful and fresh blossoms.

The institute with a total floor space of 7,000 square metres has more than 130 rooms. It has several dozen research and experimental rooms such as research rooms of substitute milk processing, medical foodstuffs, Koryo nutritious food, nutritious dynamics, food security and examination and an analysis room. It has a pilot factory and service facilities for the researchers.

The modernly furnished institute is scientifically managed by a computer system controlled by the central computer room.

The pilot factory is now producing ten odd kinds of substitute milk for verifying their scientific value.

The medical foodstuff research room is engaged in researches into the methods of discovering unhealthy children and nearly 100 kinds of food for their treatment.

The institute plans to hold international scientific symposiums and joint researches with foreign countries.

Fifth National Programming Contest Held

SK0312051194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA)—The 5th national programming contests took place at the Korean Computer Centre from November 28 to December 1.

Scientists, technicians and experts of many units including scientific and research centres, universities and colleges and industrial establishments across the country presented several hundred programs helpful toward the development of nation's computer technology and the implementation of the party's revolutionary economic strategy.

Highly appreciated at the contests were many programs including a program for transport control by a midget computer, a textile pattern designing program, a program foretelling the yield of the first filial generation of rice, an electronic dictionary program and a data control system program.

A prize awarding ceremony was held on December 1.

National Meeting of 'Mass Sports' Officials Held

SK0212050394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—A national meeting of mass sports officials was held here on November 30 and December 1 to carry through the teachings of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader of our party and people, on strengthening mass sports and physical culture.

The meeting discussed the measures for effecting a great revolutionary turn in the mass sports centering on the physical training for national defence.

Committee Compiles Pictorial Book of Relics

SK0112230994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2239 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 1 (KCNA)—The compilation committee of the pictorial book of Korean relics is stepping up the compilation of the pictorial book at the final stage.

The compiling group was formed with authoritative scholars, researchers and technicians in 1982. It has since made sizable achievements in the compilation of the book showing with the help of visual aids many historical relics which have been unearthed, collected and arranged under the correct policy of the Workers' Party of Korea for preserving cultural heritages.

The book is the historical wealth of the country which systematizes and consummates the relics representing the time-honored history and brilliant cultural tradition of the nation.

Sixteen of its twenty volumes have seen the light.

Each part of the book which consists of nine parts such as the primitive ages, the ancient times and the Koguryo Dynasty and an index, records historic relics of the given periods.

The relics recorded in the pictorial book vividly prove that the Korean nation has displayed its dignity and honor and developed Eastern culture, going through the lawful course of social development for a long period from the dawn of the birth of humankind.

The pictorial book of Korean relics is of big value as a national treasure for its adequate description of the excellent historical relics of the Korean nation and correct establishment of the Korean history on the basis of the latest academic achievements.

The compilation committee attached notes to the book in foreign languages not only for historians but also for readers at large.

The published volumes of the pictorial book are evoking a lively response from foreign academic circles.

The last volume of the book will carry, among other things, records about the Tombs of King Tangun, founder of the Korean nation, and Kings Tongmyong and Wang Kon, which have been rebuilt in recent years.

The members of the committee are accelerating the compilation of the pictorial book with the pride and honor of consummating the long history and superiority of the nation and its brilliant cultural tradition.

South Korea

Need for North To Implement Agreement Stressed

SK0612102394 Seoul YONHAP in English 1008 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 6 (YONHAP)—The government stressed on Tuesday that the faithful implementation by North Korea of the U.S.-North Korea agreement would be essential to normalizing its external relations let alone to peace and stability in Northeast Asia.

In a message to the summit meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the government, in the capacity of a special invited country, said there need multilateral talks for the further improvement of security environment and the consolidation of peace in Northeast Asia.

Saying that the security of Europe cannot be separate from that of East Asia, the message said South Korea, a major trading country, has deep interest in the new European order the CSCE is seeking to create on the threshold of the 21st century.

A South Korean delegation headed by Yi Chang-chun, director of the Foreign Ministry's Office of Policy Planning, attended the CSCE summit held in Budapest on Dec. 5-6.

Arms Forces Minister O Chin-u Returns to North

SK0512231494 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2100 GMT 5 Dec 94

[By correspondent Ko Song-un from Paris]

[FBIS Translated Text] O Chin-u, North Korea's minister of the People's Armed Forces, who had arrived in Paris, France on 25 October for lung cancer treatment, returned to Pyongyang by special plane at 1445 local time on 5 December.

In Paris for about 40 days, O Chin-u was examined two or three times at the Laennec Hospital and also received physical therapy at a hospital specializing in radioactive treatment.

O Chin-u, who is 77-years old this year, was learned to have been examined by doctors because he was having difficulty moving around on his own, and it was determined that he cannot receive surgery because he is in the terminal stages of lung cancer.

Arriving in Paris on 25 October with a six-member entourage which included doctors, O Chin-u was suspected of trying to escape North Korea for political reasons related to the inauguration of the Kim Chong-il's system. It was soon determined, however, that he had come to Paris for treatment of the aggravated condition of his lung cancer.

Minister Yi Speculates on Election in DPRK

SK0612045494 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 6 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by correspondent Son Tong-u from Berlin]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 5 December (local time), Yi Hong-ku, deputy prime minister and minister of national unification who is now on a visit to Germany, said: "I think that North Korea will convene a session of the Supreme People's Assembly around March or April next year and put the finishing touches on the power succession process in order to elect Kim Chong-il president."

He said this to accompanying [ROK] reporters and [ROK] correspondents over breakfast at the Intercontinental Hotel in Berlin that day. He said: "With the purpose of intensifying our information gathering on North Korea, we are going to dispatch researchers from the ministry to the PRC, Japan, and Russia."

Deputy Prime Minister Yi added: "We are also planning to expand exchanges with North Korean experts from the former East Germany who enjoyed close relations with North Korea before Germany was unified."

With regard to the question of granting approval for ROK businessmen to visit North Korea, he added: "The Committee for the Promotion of the South-North Exchange and Cooperation will hold a working-level meeting within this week to reach a final conclusion on the issue of granting approval for businessmen to visit North Korea."

PRC 'Intervention' Hinders Kim's Succession

SK0612013894 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 6 Dec 94 p 2,4

[By staff reporter Yi Kyo-kwan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] China has recently frustrated the North Korean government's attempt to elect Kim Chong-il its new president, a well-informed source in Seoul asserted.

According to the source, the Pyongyang government planned to proclaim Nov. 9 that Kim would be elected to president the next day at a meeting of representatives of the Workers' Party.

It was under this succession scheme that the Pyongyang government had its broadcasting organ issue an advance notice to the public for days that a "grave" announcement will be made Nov. 9, the source said.

This advance notice had been reported by the press in Seoul, generating keen curiosity among the public as well as experts on North Korean affairs.

What was actually announced by the North Korean Central Broadcasting station in Pyongyang on that day was, as every one remembers, not that "grave" at all—Kim's instruction to the North Korean People's Army to finish the construction of the Chongyu Bridge over the Taedong River in Pyongyang by Oct. 10, 1995.

The radio broadcast struck most people in Seoul as strange. But as it followed the collapse of the Songsu Bridge in Seoul, people took it as a North Korean way of ridiculing the South.

The broadcast, however, was not taken that way by many experts in Seoul as they expected something like an official announcement of Kim's succession to the presidency, the source said.

"The original content of the 'grave' announcement was, as these experts rightly expected, Kim's succession to presidency which had been left vacant since the sudden death in early July of his father, the late Kim Il-song," the source claimed.

But Kim's succession to presidency could not be announced because China, informed of the Pyongyang government's move, strongly opposed it.

"The Beijing government intervened because it believed that the new president should be selected from among the first-generation revolutionaries who had founded North Korea with the late Kim Il- song," the source said, adding that he gathered this information during his recent visit to Pyongyang.

China sent a message to Pyongyang leaders to the effect that as the junior Kim is still relatively young, a better choice would be an elder first-generation revolution leader with administrative ability, the source maintained.

China also suggested that under such a venerable senior leader, North Korea would be able to fill the vacuum created by Kim Il- song's death without much political disorder, he said.

The Pyongyang government at first resisted the intervention from Beijing but was not in a position to confront the 'Big Brother' who was the isolated regime's one and only ally, the source said.

So the Pyongyang government succumbed to the pressure from Beijing, but only for the time being, according to the source.

"Now, Pyongyang leaders are trying to secure support from China for Kim's succession to presidency around January next year," the source said.

Firms Reportedly Paid North for Invitations

SK0412053594 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 4 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Kim Song-yong from Hong Kong]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that in November ROK conglomerates paid North Korea up to $5 million each in return for invitations to visit North Korea.

According to a source well versed in the North Korean affairs, North Korea's External Economic Promotion Commission (Chairman Kim Chong-u) and Koryo National Industrial Development Council (Chairman Yi Song-nok) received $1 million to $5 million from ROK conglomerate officials who visited Beijing from 7 to 14 November following the announcement of the ROK Government's step to revitalize North-South economic cooperation. In addition, North Korea reportedly limited the number of each economic delegation to ten. In this way, North Korea improperly used excessive competition among ROK businesses.

The source said North Korea issued invitations to only eight officials of Samsung Group, which requested 24. In the case of the Hyundai Group, North Korea issued invitations to only four officials, including Hyundai's Honorary Chairman Chong Chu-yong. The source predicted that such a high-handed approach by North Korea will continue for the time being.

The source added that the Samsung Group's economic delegation is likely to visit North Korea from 12 to 5

December via Beijing and Daewoo and Hyundai will send their delegations in January or February.

UN Delegates Tour North's Tuman River Project

SK0512071194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0656 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 5 (YONHAP)—A delegation from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) visited North Korea in late November to discuss development of the Tuman River and other joint projects, NAEWOE PRESS reported Monday.

Seoul's official Pyongyang watcher quoted a Yanbian, China, radio broadcast as reporting last Saturday that the delegation contacted North Korean officials late last month to talk about the Tuman River development project.

The Yanbian broadcast was also quoted as saying that the delegation, accompanied by Chinese officials, visited Hunchun in China to conduct a joint feasibility study on developing the area around the Tuman River.

The delegation entered into negotiations with officials from the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture on economic development, trade and investment in Yanbian.

The broadcast also reported that a meeting on Tuman River development plans will be held in Yanbian next year, predicting that the development project will benefit each country taking part, according to NAEWOE.

North Delegates to Liaison Talks Arrive in U.S.

SK0612071394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0638 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, Dec. 5 (YONHAP)—The North Korean delegation to experts' talks with the United States on exchanging liaison offices arrived at Dulles Airport around 8 PM Monday, over two hours late due to a delay of their United Airlines flight from New York to Washington.

This marked the first time that an official North Korean delegation has been in the U.S. capital since Korea's division in 1945 after the end of World War II.

Asked to describe his feelings upon arrival by the South Korean press corps, delegation head Pak Sok-kyun, the Foreign Ministry's deputy director-general for U.S. Affairs, said simply that "a chance for talk will come later." Not satisfied with that, the reporters posed other questions: "When do you expect to open your liaison office here?" and "Do you think the talks will proceed smoothly?" Pak replied tersely, "We have to conduct discussions first."

An official of the North Korean Mission to the United Nations, recalling that no press interviews were held when the U.S. delegation visited Pyongyang for experts' talks, said: "Our delegation will decline interviews in accordance with precedent."

U.S. authorities tried to block outside contact as much as possible by transporting the North Koreans in a shuttle bus to the main terminal. For security reasons, they have not revealed where the North Koreans are staying during their visit here.

Over 10 ethnic Koreans from the Hamgyong Provincial Fraternity Society and the Washington Coalition for Unifiction of the Motherland welcomed the Pyongyang delegation at the airport, presenting them with bouquets.

Expectations for Republican-Led Congress Viewed

SK0612080894 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 Dec 94 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Republican-led U.S. Congress is likely to deal with North Korea's human rights problem if Pyongyang shows no sincerity in the implementation of the nuclear agreements reached in Geneva Oct. 21, the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) said yesterday.

"Republican lawmaker Richard Lugar of Indiana and many others have considered human rights a priority task of U.S. foreign policy," IFANS said in its report on the recent U.S. congressional elections.

Washington has so far avoided touching on Pyongyang's human rights issue to conclude the agreement on nuclear and diplomatic issues with North Korea.

Meanwhile, Washington is expected to press its demand for Seoul to purchase high-tech U.S. weapons while reaffirming its strong commitment to South Korea's defense, the state-run institute said.

It also called for the Seoul government's preparedness in case the Republican-dominated U.S. Congress tries to revise the Geneva agreement especially by withholding funds to carry it out.

With regard to trade policies, Washington, despite multilateralism sought by the World Trade Organization (WTO) system, is expected to resort to bilateral negotiations aimed at opening Seoul's markets related to finance, automobiles, agriculture and intellectual property rights, the report said.

For instance, Washington called on Tokyo to strengthen supervision on the management of NTT which has monopolized intra- city telephone networks or to lower the airport service tax at newly-opened Kansai Airport, it said.

Washington is expected to apply the same policy to Korea by urging it to open its markets which it thinks would benefit Korean consumers.

To fend off trade friction in the future, IFANS advised the government to establish a permanent trade dialogue channel like the now-defunct Dialogue for Economic

Cooperation (DEC) which Seoul and Washington agreed to replace with a follow-up consultation body.

Forecasting that the United States will call on Seoul to increase its share of the burden for the defense of the Korean peninsula, the institute advised the government to draw up a comprehensive trade policy which meets security requirements as well as economic ones.

President Kim Meets With Microsoft's Bill Gates

SK0612120394 Seoul YONHAP in English 1124 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 6 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam met Bill Gates, visiting chairman of the U.S. Microsoft Corp., at Chongwadae [presidential offices] Tuesday afternoon to exchange opinions on the future of the information communications business.

President Kim expressed the hope that with Gates' visit to Korea as a momentum, there will be closer cooperation between Microsoft and Korean computer industries.

Saying that South Korean computer business is still in a less competitive state, the president said Korea is striving hard to renovate the computer and information communications sectors, aware that "we would fall off for good if we lag behind in this fast-changing world."

Chairman Gates said he was paying respect to the effort of Korea to swiftly cope with the rapid changes taking place in the world. Gates said he was sure South Korea would lead tremendous changes in the world order of the distribution of rapid information, cooperation and competition.

The multibillionaire computer genius flew into Seoul Monday for a three-day visit. This was his second visit to Korea after his first visit here in 1988

U.S. Visa Interview Tickets Said Sold Illegally

SK0312044294 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 3 Dec 94 p 23

[By reporter Kang Min-sok]

[FBIS Translated Text] Visa interview tickets issued by the U.S. Embassy in Seoul to visa applicants are being sold illegally. This gives rise to another social problem involving visas for travel to the United States.

The U.S. Embassy began issuing visa interview tickets to applicants since last June to ensure that they do not have to wait in long queues in front of the embassy. The date of the interview and other details are written on the tickets. Tickets were found to be fetching up to 100,000 won per ticket. At approximately 0730 on 2 December, approximately 600 applicants were seen lining up in an approximately 100m queue to receive interview tickets, and "ticket scalpers" were seen approaching people who were waiting toward the end of the queue.

A Mr. Pak, a 36-year-old office worker who lives in Kil-tong, Kangdong District, Seoul said he had to buy a ticket because ticket scalpers told him that he would not be able to receive a ticket that day. Tickets sell not only in front of the Embassy but at inns and restaurants near the Embassy.

A Mr. Kim, a 40-year-old office worker, said: "Arriving at the U.S. Embassy at 0400 on 16 November to receive an interview ticket, I was led by a man in his forties to an inn near the Chongno District Office. I gave the man 90,000 won for a ticket." He added: "I bought the ticket because it is embarrassing to stand in a line in front of a foreign embassy from early in the morning."

A 49-year-old Mr. Kim, president of an authorized visa handling travel agency whose initial is O, said: "A man can get two to three tickets if he has a passport and an identification card. So, ticket scalpers employ many people to have them pick up a large amount of tickets."

A 50-year-old president of a certain "S" travel agency said: "Tickets are sold illegally because of the 1,000 tickets issued each day by the U.S. Embassy, 500 are designated for individual visa applicants and 500 are designated for authorized travel agencies." He suggested: "If the embassy gaved tickets to all applicants, illegal sales of tickets would disappear immediately."

Iran Reportedly To Purchase DPRK Missiles

SK0612055694 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 6 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by correspondent Chin Chang-uk from Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] Quoting a German intelligence source, the OBSERVER of Britain reported that Iran, which is assembling Scud-B missiles by importing key missile parts from North Korea, has further plans to purchase [North Korean] Nodong No. 1 missiles with a 1,000-km range.

Military Begins Talks With Indonesia, Thailand

SK0512013394 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Dec 94 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Defense Ministry will begin separate talks with Indonesia and Thailand, on promoting cooperation in defense industries and other military supplies, from today until Dec. 14.

Relevant ministry officials will visit Indonesia Dec. 5-10 and Thailand Dec. 10-14 to attend bilateral joint committees on munitions, a ministry spokesman said.

The committee will deal with mutual use of commonly-used military equipment, swapping of surplus materials, logistical assistance during visits of vessels and aircrafts and exchanges of information on munitions.

The ministry will seek to conclude a memorandum of understanding with Indonesia to pave the way for exports of domestically produced military equipment during the committee session.

So far, the two nations have engaged in only "limited" military cooperation, excluding the exchanges of military weapons.

Ethnic Koreans in Uzbekistan Invited to Seoul

SK0612071994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0640 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 6 (YONHAP)—Four ethnic Koreans living in Uzbekistan have been invited to visit South Korea from Dec. 14-18 to promote friendship between the two countries, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

The four visitors, selected for their success within the Korean community, include a medical doctor and deputy editor-in-chief of a local newspaper.

President Kim Yong-sam was in Uzbekistan last June and promised to invite Koreans there to come to Seoul.

The Uzbeks will tour industrial plants and cultural sites and meet with Foreign Ministry officials.

Political Climate, Assembly Developments Assessed

SK0312051394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0439 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 3 (YONHAP)—Amid a backlash from the main opposition party after the ruling party railroaded the fiscal 1995 national budget bill through the National Assembly Friday evening, their confrontation is expected to continue as other controversial issues await in the house.

Another clash between the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) and the opposition Democratic Party (DP) is probably unavoidable since the DLP plans to push for assembly ratification of the World Trade Organization (WTO) bill while the DP is poised to block any action.

Nevertheless, the DLP is optimistic about ruling-opposition dialogue next week in order to deal with pending bills including the wto issue, judging that DP doves will gain a stronger voice after an outdoor rally in puchon city Saturday.

In the meantime, the DP has reaffirmed that it will wage simultaneous struggles in and outside parliament. To that end, the party will strive to nullify the budget and 46 other bills processed in just 30 seconds Friday night and plans to stage a second massive outdoor rally Saturday to call for the indictment of those involved in the Dec 12, 1979 "military rebellion."

After the rally, the DP will hold a supreme councillors' meeting Tuesday to chart its future course.

The DP wants to negotiate with the DLP on nullifying the passed budget bill and has repeatedly urged the DLP to accept such preconditions as renegotiations with the United States and the enactment of a Uruguay Round implementation bill for ratification of the WTO bill.

Should these conditions not be satisfied, the opposition party will likely attempt to hold up the WTO ratification bill in the Foreign-Unification committee.

Opposition Vows More Rallies

SK0312100894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0931 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Puchon, Kyonggi Province, Dec. 3 (YONHAP)—Opposition leader Yi Ki-taek formally said Saturday [3 December] his Democratic Party [DP] will return to the National Assembly from coming Monday but vowed to push on with protest rallies.

Meeting reporters after outdoor rally in Puchon, Yi said his party's appearance at the assembly Friday was not an official comeback but an effort to block ruling camp's unilateral railroading of the 1995 Budget Bill.

"We will officially return on Monday because as a responsible opposition party, we can no longer turn our back to important issues such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) Bill," he said.

The Democratic Party abandoned the assembly in outrage when the prosecution decided not to indict former presidents who were found guilty of military rebellion in connection with the Dec. 12, 1979 incident which led to the rise of Gen. Chon Tu-hwan as president.

"But even if we return to the National Assembly, we are going to continue with the rallies, add more momentum to nationwide movement to rescind the prosecution's decision," he said, "we will hold the Seoul rally on Dec. 10 and hold others in major cities."

Confrontation Said 'Unavoidable'

SK0412055394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0542 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—As the National Assembly will be restored to normal on Monday, each standing panels is able to deliberate pending bills.

After a Saturday outdoor rally in Puchon City calling for the indictment of former presidents and other people involved in the Dec. 12 "military rebellion" of 1979, opposition Democratic Party (DP) Chairman Yi Ki-taek told a press conference that the party would come back to the House on Dec. 5.

It took almost one month until the DP decided to return to the National Assembly after the party abandoned it by reason of the government's decision not to indict those involved in the 1979 military incident.

Despite the DP's comeback and the normalization of the House on Monday, the ruling-opposition confrontation is likely to be unavoidable considering the opposition party's declaration to wage struggles to nullify the railroaded 1995 budget bill and to oppose the ratification of the World Trade Organization (WTO) bill.

However, the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) plans to act on the WTO bill within this Assembly session.

Parliament Adjourns in 'Uproar'

SK0612092394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0804 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 6 (YONHAP)—The National Assembly plenary session resumed Tuesday afternoon only to adjourn seven minutes later due to a bipartisan uproar over the ruling party's railroading of next year's budget bill.

Immediately after the session resumed, assembly Speaker Hwang Nak-chu allowed Rep. Yi Yun-su of the opposition Democratic Party (DP) to take the floor to speak about parliamentary proceedings. But the opposition lawmaker went to the press parlor upstairs, instead of taking the floor in the plenary session hall, in a cynical gesture mocking Vice Assembly Speaker Yi Chun-ku, who served as chair during the ruling party's unilateral passage of the budget bill.

Ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) lawmakers yelled in unison for Yi to come down and Speaker Hwang also demanded that the DP legislator take the floor and give his speech. An exchange of shouts and taunts between ruling and opposition lawmakers ensued, leaving the plenary session hall in chaos.

Speaker Hwang declared an adjournment seven minutes after the resumption of the plenary sitting.

In a speech prior to the commotion, Hwang voiced regret over the irregular passage of the budget bill, saying that the ruling and opposition parties are required to discuss state affairs in accordance with the people's aspirations in the coming 10 days.

Responding to the speaker's expression of regret, DP lawmakers shouted, "What is that deceptive talk, Speaker?" while DLP members told them to "be silent."

State Council Approves Reorganization Bill

SK0612055394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0243 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 6 (YONHAP)—The State Council, at a meeting presided over by Prime Minister Yi Yong-tok Tuesday morning, approved and referred to the National Assembly a sweeping government reorganization bill.

The bill calls for creating a Board of Finance and Economy by merging the Economic Planning Board and the Ministry of Finance, and for integrating the Transportation and Construction Ministries into the Construction-Transportation Ministry.

Proposing the revamp bill, Government Administration Minister Hwang Yong-ha said, "a partial reformulation of the central government structure is sought for the purposes of positively coping with an administrative environment calling for globalization and localization as well as changes in administrative demands and of realizing a small but strong administration."

Premier Yi called on cabinet ministers to carry out interministerial structual readjustments "with an open mind, dispelling collective egoism, with a view to serving the era and people."

Yi instructed Hwang to craft plans for positively utilizing manpower left idle in the course of implementing the wide-ranging reorganization.

In submitting to the National Assembly the new government restructuring bill, the administration withdrew another such bill put to parliament in October.

Opposition Criticizes Plan

SK0412101494 Seoul YONHAP in English 1005 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—The opposition Democratic Party (DP) urged the government to scrap its rough-and-ready-made reorganization plan announced Saturday [3 December] and to remake it in a future-oriented direction through discussions in which all the people as well as officials concerned take part, DP Spokesman Pak Chi-won said Sunday in a statement in connection with the government's revamping plan.

The spokesman added, "Accordingly, the 1995 National Budget Bill railroaded unilaterally by the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) should be nullified and a new bill must be work out through ruling- opposition deliberations in preparation for the new reorganization of the government."

Pak pointed out that the party has insisted many times on the need to revamp the government setups in preparation for the 21st century and the future. "But, making such plan by a few people's secret decisions is self-righteous and cannot work out future-oriented programs."

Officials Fear 'Personnel Shakeup'

SK0512014094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0118 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 5 (YONHAP)—Agitated officials are awaiting the biggest personnel shakeup since the current administration took office following Saturday's government reorganization.

Initial studies show that about 1,000 government employees will have to be relocated, meaning more backed-up promotions.

President Kim Yong-sam effected a blitzkrieg reorganization plan last week, merging ministries, transferring authority and streamlining inner structures.

The decision did away with 32 high-level posts—two ministers, three vice ministers, four assistant ministers and 23 directors- general. Officials say as many as 100 divisions will also be removed.

"The government reorganization doesn't only reduce some 1,000 personnel. Considering the necessary follow-up personnel shift, all public employees except for a few posts such as the prosecution and the police will be affected," said one official.

Ten posts, including minister, vice minister and other officials in grade three and above, are gone with the merger of the Economic Planning Board (EPB) and the Finance Ministry.

This marks the second structural change for the Education Ministry, which was reorganized last April. It lost one vice minister and another post of the same level as well as five director-general posts.

The new Construction-Transportation Ministry will have eight fewer directors-general than when they were separate agencies.

The Trade-Industry Ministry, which replaces the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry, loses five high-level posts.

Officials said they are considering forming special experts' teams in charge of specific tasks in order to soak up experienced government employees.

Lower-echelon employees will be relocated to other ministries which actually require more manpower from the government reorganization, such as the Information-Communications, Health-Welfare and Environment Ministries, they said.

Reshaping of Ministries Planned

SK0512083294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0716 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 5 (YONHAP)—The government will reshape ministries that were left untouched by last Saturday's reorganization including the Foreign, Justice, Defense and Labor Ministries, officials said Monday.

Vice Government Administration Minister Won Chin-sik will convene a meeting of assistant ministers of planning and management from all agencies Tuesday and deliver specified instructions and dates of implementation, they said.

The instructions will cover not only the ministries included in Saturday's reorganization but also those that were excluded, they said.

Won said the meeting will focus on liberalization and the lifting of regulations, aims of the government reorganization and factors that will decide its success.

The government and ruling party initially planned to have lawmakers introduce the bill on reorganization but have now decided that the bill should be tabled by the government.

A cabinet session is scheduled for Wednesday morning to deliberate and endorse the bill, which will then be sent immediately to the National Assembly.

The government will complete work on reshaping the ministries by Dec. 12 and officially proclaim it together with the government reorganization as soon as the latter is passed by the National Assembly.

"The target of extensive reduction under consideration right now is about 100 divisions," said Vice Minister Won, "But we are considering restructuring for even those that are outside the target from the perspective of logic and efficiency. The government organization will be rewoven on the whole."

As for the roughly 1,000 employees left without posts by last week's reorganization, Won said the government will absorb them by placing them in newly created posts in other ministries or by funneling them into education and training courses.

"From examples of the past, we expect the manpower absorption to take over a year," Won said.

On hiring of new employees, Won said the number will decrease somewhat but there will be no freeze on new recruits.

Majority Supports Revamp Plan

SK0512104494 Seoul YONHAP in English 1008 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 5 (YONHAP)—Three in every four South Koreans welcome the government reorganization plan announced over the weekend and a majority of the people support the ratification of the WTO (World Trade Organization) plan, a recent opinion poll said.

The poll was taken over the weekend by the Media Research Co. toward 1,000 adult men and women across the country.

Of the pollees, 75.1 percent said the reorganization was good and 74.3 percent said it was timely.

As to the effect of the reorganization, 65.7 percent said it would be helpful to renovating the working atmosphere of public officials, and 63.7 percent said it would contribute to bettering administrative service to people.

Asked if they feel the need of the revamping of local administrative organizations as well, 83.5 percent said they believe so and 81.5 percent said there should be the similar reorganization of enterprises and institutes under the government control.

Of the total respondents, 63.7 percent said they support the ratification of the WTO plan within the current National Assembly session. Only 26.3 percent said they were opposed to it.

On President Kim Yong-sam's performance, 57.9 percent of the pollees affirmatively viewed it while 38.4 percent had negative thought of the way President Kim handles state affairs.

Last October and November, those who affirmatively thought of the president's performance stood at around 50 percent.

With respect to President Kim's idea of globalization, 65.7 percent said they support the idea and 61 percent said they believe President Kim's reform drive would succeed.

Of the total pollees, 27 percent said they support the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, 21.8 percent the opposition Democratic Party, and 48.5 percent said there is no party to support.

Promotions, Reassignments Frozen

SK0612120794 Seoul YONHAP in English 1129 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 6 (YONHAP)—The government has decided to freeze promotion and reassignment of the employees of central government offices in connection with the on-going government reorganization.

Vice Government Administration Minister Won Chin-sik said Tuesday that all central government offices, whether or not involved in the organizational revamping, will be banned from promoting or reassigning their officials pending further notice.

He was briefing the government personnel policy to chief planning and management officers of the 17 ministries involved in the reorganization and the Foreign Ministry.

Won said overlapping offices caused by the merger will be done away with, citing the administration divisions of the affected ministries as the typical overlapping offices.

The vice minister said the government will see to it that those who will lose their duties as a result of the reorganization will not suffer any disadvantage in terms of their public officials' status.

"But, all government offices should cooperate in the government personnel policy in the spirit of sharing pains," Won said.

The surplus officials will be thrown into those areas needing more manpower, will be used in new government offices like a projected light-water reactor corp. and a local autonomy planning corp., and will be sent to various research institutes at home and abroad, the vice minister said.

Local Administrative Structure Reform Studied

SK0512025694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0233 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 5 (YONHAP)—In a bid to maximize the functions of local administration, the government is working on a project designed to simplify the current three-stage local administrative structure into a two-tier system.

The local administrative structure currently comprises the three stages of special city or province, city, county or ku (ward) and up (town), myon (township) or tong (village).

The project, aimed at enhancing the efficiency of local government and boosting citizens' convenience with a view to creating an era of localization prior to implementation of local autonomy, calls for abolishing either province or town, township and village.

A senior government official said Monday: "To open a substantial era of localization and prepare for the 21st century, the local administrative structure should be reviewed from the base. General structure reform formulas are under study including a simplification of the current multi-tiered local administrative structure."

A reform formula on abolishing the province is based on the logic that the functions of the current provincial governments are confined to liaison and coordination between the central government and city, county and ward offices, and that they, having too wide an area to administer, are unable to function as autonomous organizations.

Proponents of this formula assert that the administrative work of the provincial governments should be transferred to town, township and village offices if the latter are to be activated as basic autonomous bodies. The formula will also prevent regional sentiments or mutual hostility from growing worse when local autonomy is enforced in earnest, the proponents say.

The other formula envisaging the abolition of town, township and village offices stands on the ground that thanks to the remarkable progress in communications and transportation, duties involving census registration, military affairs and petitions, which are now handled by them, can be transferred to city and county offices.

Should the government finalize the provincial administrative structure reform formula in either way, the administration is expected to take the necessary legislative steps and implement the reform prior to the four local elections slated for next June, including gubernatorial and mayoral polls.

The above-cited senior official, however, predicted that postponement of the local elections would be unavoidable in the event an epoch-making reform formula was adopted for abolishing either province or town, township and village. "In this regard, the chief executive might make a resolute decision asking the will of the people in the course of a public debate on the reform of the local administrative structure," the source opined.

Six Arrested on NSL Violation Charges

SK0612094794 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 6 Dec 94 p 22

[Report by Kim Chong-yun]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 6 December, the Seoul Police Headquarters announced that it arrested six members of "Our Youth Society," including Choe Hyok (27, a graduate of the Agricultural Science Department, Tongguk University), president of the society, on charges of violating the National Security Law [NSL]. According to the police, they carried out activities with the aim of building a socialist state based on Marxism-Leninism, including training college students as professional revolutionaries.

The police announced that it confiscated 11,000-odd items of 146 kinds as evidence, including this organization's organ, "CHONGNYON KONGDONGCHE" [YOUTH COMMUNITY], notebooks, and other publications with contents benefiting the enemy.

The police also announced that they formed an organization called "Our Youth Society" in June of last year with the purpose of building a socialist nation through a violent proletariat revolutionary struggle with the workers as the core. Since then, they trained about 700 students from S, K, D, [as published] universities through ideological studies as professional revolutionaries up until this past November. Thus, they are suspected of having schemed a workers' revolution.

The following individuals were arrested: Choe Hyok; Kim Chun-o (29, graduate of the Social Studies Department, Tongguk University); Yi Sung-u (28, graduate of the Korean Literature Department, Tongguk University); Kim Chong-sik (26, graduate of the Kukmin University); Min Pyong-chae (graduate of mathematics, Chungnam University), and Sin Kyu-yong (25, graduate of the Arts Department, Seoul University).

* Kim Yong-sam's Current State of Policy Viewed

952C0015A Seoul SINDONG-A in Korean Oct 94 pp 218-223

[By O Sok-hong, professor of the Seoul National University graduate school of political science: "Personnel Administration of the Kim Yong-sam Government: Is It Making Everything as It Should ... or Breaking Everything?"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Restitution of legitimacy should begin with liquidation of the past in personnel administration. Awe-inspiring indeed was the effort of the Kim Yong-sam government in its early days. As time passes by, however, signs of adhesion with the past are on the increase. Is this government's legitimacy restitution effort falling through?

At the inauguration of his administration, President Kim Yong-sam stressed that the new government is a "civilian government." Since then, people have referred to it as *the civilian government.*

Evidently, it was from a pressing motive that he did so. More importantly, he was determined to take on himself the gigantic task of drawing a historic distinction between him and his predecessors, on his own initiative. Specifically, he had a keen sense of and a strong will for the task of liquidating the past and launching bold, re-creative reforms.

In the early days of the new government, people saw his obsession and will being translated into reality through the vigorous implementation of reforms. The reform drive, launched against the backdrops of the legitimacy and pride of the civilian government and the support of the people, took on features distinctly different from the past in its scope and approach. It indeed drew a great deal of applause from the public.

But today, many people seem to think that the enthusiasm for reform has worn off, that the reform push has failed to achieve the expected results, or that all the evil practices of the past are coming back.

What is the current state of the personnel policy and personnel administration the new government has pursued—or should have pursued—as part of a movement to redress the Korean Disease and create a "New Korea"? To know where the "new personnel policy" stands now, it is necessary to shed light both on its successes and failures plus unfinished tasks. This article, however, will focus on its failures and unfinished tasks, as a way to contribute to efforts to improve the government.

Our criticism and feedback should be productive ones. We must also accept the premise that personnel administration is an activity of "imperfect" man managing "imperfect" man. Otherwise, they would only be tantamount to pseudo-criticism or frivolous gossiping.

Anticorruption Movement, Smell of "Failed Reform"

The central tasks which the new personnel policy should have taken on or grasped firmly can be summed up as these: to expose corruption, establish legitimacy in government and administration, reject personal connections and follow a nonpartisan path in personnel management, and to find a solution to the problem of public servants "lying low and doing nothing" in what is called a reverse irregularity.

The issues of exposing corruption and liquidating the past and those of restituting legitimacy to personnel management, administration and government are linked with one another. Although the government took a series of drastic measures in these areas, their sustained effectiveness is doubtful. It is because they failed to touch the root of the problems. It is open to question whether the present government ever examined seriously the difficulty of the problems. Perhaps it launched into a reform program without a firm vision that is backed up by lessons of history.

There is no need to go back too far in history; for decades, corruption was a driving force of national development in this country. We lived in the midst of structural and institutional corruption. Corruption was the rule of national life. The Kim Yong-sam government had to face the problem of institutionalized corruption that threatened to ruin the country. And it took on itself the urgent task of bringing it to an end.

Planners of the anticorruption movement should have started with a clear understanding that the movement is not a struggle against an exception or minority but against a principle and majority. With that understanding, they should have approached the problems under carefully thought-out plans. They failed to do so, however. That is why many people feel that so far as corruption is concerned, there has been little change.

The confident attitude and unflinching rebuttals of those ousted in major corruption cases smell of a failed reform. The fact that the movement drew to an "early close," without being able to trace to the end the flows of money in major bribery scandals amounting to hundreds of millions or billions of won, suggests the difficulty of the reform and its setback. Seeing the clashes between the government and the opposition over the inquiries into major corruption cases, people would feel that nothing has changed. They feel frustrations at continued reports that the laxity in official discipline and cases of irregularity are on the rise as "the sword of auditing and inspection" gets blunt.

This article cannot detail every stratagem to fight the institutionalized corruption. It just points out that in order to do away with the structure of corruption, it is necessary to dissect it thoroughly and find out where the vertex lies. It also recommends that officials establish "honest" plans on how the war on corruption should be waged and how far it should be waged, and that they make sustained efforts to carry them out.

Liquidation Possible Only When Legitimacy Regained

The cause of liquidating the past is an obligation history imposed on the present government. It is a karma that could even be fatal to it. That a country needs to liquidate its past means that it has something unjust in its past. We have a past of illegitimacy that continued long, deep and wide-ranged. The history of the ROK began with ex-agents of the Japanese Government riding roughshod over the public. They were followed by illegitimate powers and regimes subjecting the people to tyranny one after another under the pretext of finding a means of livelihood for them.

The legacy of illegitimate government and administration in the past put too heavy a pressure on the present government that got off to a legitimate start. Therefore, to remove the pressure and restore legitimacy is an unavoidable historic mission of the present government.

Although the legitimacy of government and administration is a necessity in any age, it could be eclipsed by the need of efficiency at times when the escape from poverty is assigned higher priority or in the early days of high growth. Today, however, as the demand for a welfare state came to the fore and the respect for human dignity emerged as the matter of greatest public concern, legitimacy represents a value that cannot be replaced by anything else. We are now living in a world in which nothing can be achieved by a leader or a government that has no legitimacy.

Restitution of legitimacy to government and administration inevitably begins with liquidation of the past in the human relations sphere and with establishment of legitimacy in that sphere. It is because government and administration is what man does to man. One should not be merely skeptical of or trying to find fault with the Kim Yong-sam government's effort and intent to liquidate the human relations of the past (through shake-ups). The effort it made, in its early days in particular, was awe-inspiring. But the problem is that as time passes by, more people feel that signs of adhesion or re-adhesion with the past are on the increase. It could be that the government now thinks that, as the saying goes, "the devil you know is better than the devil you don't know," for the efficiency factor apparently is overriding the legitimacy factor in personnel administration. It is feared indeed that the legitimacy restitution effort of this regime perhaps is falling through because of the difficulty of the task of liquidating the past.

Those pushing the reform program are in need of in-depth research on the limitations of the effort to liquidate the past, the limitations originating in the start of the Kim Yong-sam government or inherent in the power base that produced the regime. Like the anticorruption movement, the struggle to liquidate the past is a struggle waged by a minority against the majority. They must face up to this stark reality and push the struggle with a grim determination and long-term action plans.

It occurs to me that while living under illegitimate governments for so long, we may have become an "illegitimate majority" ourselves as a people. Evidently, the time has come for us to examine the "national integrity" rather than the individual.

Evidence of politicians seemingly relying on an "illegitimate majority" are innumerable. A typical case is the notion prevalent in political quarters that it is impossible to win an election in which governmental power is at stake without relying on or tying up with what is defined as coup d'etat-type force and viewed as unjust. Is there a high society that is genuinely respectable in our country? How many elder statesmen with legitimate charisma do we have? Did you hear the "battle cry" opposing, or demanding deferment of, a decision to dismantle the old building that once housed the office of the Japanese Governor General? Have you ever tried to appraise—cool-headedly in the light of history—the acts of the so-called intellectuals who mounted a signature campaign opposing the dismantling or demanding its deferment?

Thus, the environment is not in favor of a quest for legitimacy in personnel administration. Those pushing the reform program need a correct understanding of what their task is up to.

Nepotism, parochialism and unjustifiable discriminations based on them are an inveterate disease in this country. The problem of regional discrimination is another of the fetters of history placed on the Kim Yong-sam government. As long as it continues, the country cannot recover its health. Nor can it come out of the ranks of backward nations. The fetters, nonetheless, remain in place, persistently and stubbornly.

What Is the Principle of Personnel Administration?

Despite its proclaimed nonpartisan approach, one can hardly notice anything new in the present government's personnel administration. If there is anything new at all, it is that the TK [Taegu-North Kyongsang Province] faction is being pushed by the PK [Pusan-South Kyongsang Province] faction and that people are whispering more widely that the TK under the pressure is showing what they call "TK sentiment."

Also, it can hardly be said that networks to find political and administrative talents to fill vacancies have been expanded. The announced nonpartisan personnel assignment standards remain a formality. In too many cases, one can see at a glance that the question of filling vacancies with talents from numerically inferior regions remains a matter of mere adjustment-level consideration.

It is true that the elite groups which have enjoyed the benefits of power for a long time naturally have more talents. However, to say that regional lopsidedness is therefore inevitable is but an easy-going and shortsighted way of saying it. It is a temptation, but what is needed is courage to reject the temptation.

Personnel action is a matter affecting the distant future of the nation. It is hoped that the Kim Yong-sam government will become a government that fosters talents for the distant future of the nation, that it will leave a record of high achiever in fostering many talents for the next government and the next next government.

It is also hoped that it will uphold the spirit and principle of representative bureaucracy, which is based on the concept of equality. Representative bureaucracy means bureaucracy based on the principle that each social group is expected to have government jobs in proportion to its demographic percentage. This system inevitably means a reverse discrimination against the elite groups in the past. In this connection, it is necessary to know about the anguish of the U.S. Government in resorting to the controversial "affirmative action" program in its pursuit of representative bureaucracy, and about what that last resort means.

Next, let's take a look at the spoils system in the Kim Yong-sam government.

The spoils system is unavoidable to a certain extent to a democratic government based on the multiparty system. It is necessary, therefore, to tolerate it within a justifiable limit. It is not right to criticize or denounce "wholesale" the practice of the president's appointing persons close to him or politically sympathetic forces to posts requiring his confidence. The attitude of those who always view activities of "the president's men" in a negative light or who are apt to refer to them as "the retainers group" is by no means a graceful one. We should not abuse such phrases as *nakhasan insa* [appointment on recommendation from high above] and *nongong haengsang* [rewarding campaign workers according to their performances].

However, the spoils system in the present government evidently has room for criticism. First of all, while the opportunity for office hunting is likely to expand drastically in the future, there are no signs of officials giving it a serious thought or working on a countermeasure or specific plans to deal with them.

The first such opportunity will come, most typically, immediately after the birth of local autonomy next year. Under the new system, local administration will shift to local government, with significantly large portions of the bureaucratic domain turned over to the political domain. As the political domain expands, the need for personnel actions to satisfy the spoils system would increase accordingly. But the government apparently has no plans to address that situation.

In short, the present government gives the impression that it lacks principle and dignity concerning the spoils system. If it is to enhance the legitimacy of its personnel administration and the efficiency of public offices and to establish official discipline in the age of fast-growing democracy and autonomy, it needs to come up with a clear-cut, resolute stance in regard to the spoils system issue. Nonetheless, the government, while failing to face up to issues in connection with the imminent local autonomy, seems to be preoccupied with an effort to develop an antispoils system device. This could rather lead to the spread of an unprincipled, unscrupulous spoils system, and eventually to confusion in personnel administration. The executive branch should yield to the political domain what it should while retaining whatever it should retain. It should do so on a firmly established principle, though.

Basic Solution To "Lie Low, Do Nothing" Problem

What many people fear is that the spoils system in the present government is encroaching on spheres of personnel administration where the principle of merit should be adhered to. There should be certain limits to political appointments made under the system involving top-level official posts. The influence of persons thus appointed should not affect holders of low, obscure offices, but what the present government is doing is doubtful in this point.

If the legitimacy of political appointments is to be recognized, the limits for such appointments should be respected without fail. Such appointments should not be doled out like the distribution of spoils of war. Even in political appointments, the principles of the right man in the right place and fairness should be adhered to. The regime should do a profound soul-searching over the phenomena of political appointees playing roles larger than their official titles and becoming "power wielders." As for political appointees, they should develop an appropriate norm of behavior for themselves.

In conclusion, let's take a look at the regime's response to the problem of public servants' "lying low and doing nothing." Since their attitude is an expression of extensive, subtle resistance against reforms, dealing with it is by no means an easy task. Stating the conclusion first, it seems that the government has not been very successful in its response. It seems to be unable to find effective ways to deal with the legacy of the era of bureaucracy—the wavering values on the part of public office holders, the rigidity of the bureaucratic system, and the lack of a long-term career official program. In consequence, the regime seems unable to come out of the traditional bureaucratic framework in its approach to this problem, too.

Typical incentives for officials' good performance in the traditional bureaucracy, applicable to solving the "lie low and do nothing" problem, too, are pay raises and promotions. Authorities responsible for personnel policies are now racking their brains to find in them a way to correct the situation. We must admit that they are working hard in this area but, under the current circumstances, they should realize that the two things alone cannot produce a secret epoch-making prescription. Such traditional incentives were found vastly effective in the days when the nation was aspiring to high growth and when the government was expanding.

In an information age, those incentives tend to be not as effective as they used to be. Furthermore, even if authorities try to apply them, they will find many hurdles standing in their way. There still is room for pay raises and better treatment for government officials; the need for them is high. But we have no resources to carry out a "stunningly substantial" pay raise to make them abandon the "lie low and do nothing" resistance right away. As regards the matter of promotion, prospects are even gloomier. It is impossible to expand the opportunity for promotion while reducing the size of the government and extending the retirement age in keeping with increases in the average life expectancy.

Today the fever of administrative reform is a global phenomenon. The general trend of reform represents an aspiration to the reduction of government, an end to bureaucratism, and to the respect for the self-realization of the creative individual. With this in mind, the Kim Yong-sam government should make a decisive move to find a fundamental breakthrough in the "lie low and do nothing" problem in the "relationship of work and man."

Samsung Applies for Passenger Car Production

SK0512020294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0141 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 5 (YONHAP)—The Samsung Group on Monday submitted to the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry a plan to produce passenger cars under a technical tie-up with Japan's Nissan Motor.

The plan, which is expected to be approved this week, calls for starting construction of an assembly plant in Pusan next June to begin making 60,000 2,000cc cars in 1998, with production increasing to 500,000 by 2002.

The company will export 35 percent of production in the initial year and hike exports to 55 percent in 2002.

Samsung and Nissan will jointly develop three new export cars based on the three 2,000cc models which the Japanese firm has developed but not yet made public, according to the plan.

Under the technical tie-up, Nissan will not only provide new products and technology to Samsung but also cooperate in Samsung's efforts to develop new car models, localize key auto parts and improve plant operations.

The Japanese firm has also agreed not to limit export markets for Samsung cars and to recognize Samsung's right to modify the designs of its cars and parts.

In return, Samsung will pay Nissan 1.9 billion yen (14.3 billion won) in fixed royalties plus 1.6 percent to 1.9 percent of Samsung cars' factory prices in technical license fees and 6.76 billion yen in technical service fees for co-development of the three Samsung models.

Reveals Restructuring Details

SK0612083194 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 Dec 94 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Samsung Group will sell all equity shares in its vernacular newspaper. The CHUNGANG Daily News [CHUNGANG ILBO], by 1996 and all those in the textile producing Cheil Synthetics, Inc. by June next year in an effort to specialize in its core concerns like automobiles, a high-ranking group official said yesterday.

Yi Pil-kon, chairman of the group's planning corps toward the 21st century, said that Samsung will sell its stocks in its wool textile firm, Cheil Industries, Inc., to the firm's employees next year.

Samsung has also decided to sell a mammoth commercial building bought by the Samsung Corp. last May at the Sohyon subway station in Pundang and to separate the Hotel Shilla in downtown Seoul from the group's subsidiaries, Yi said.

Yi revealed the follow-up measures for business restructuring shortly before submitting an application to the government for passenger car manufacturing.

He said that the group will sell as soon as possible its shares in Shinsegae Department Store and the Cheil Food & Chemicals, Inc. for their legal separation from the group, while suspending the common use of computer, education and personnel management systems with the two firms.

The group will also withdraw managerial staff of the group working at Cheil Food and CHUNGANG Daily News as soon as possible.

To foster passenger car manufacturing as the people's industry, Samsung will offer stocks of its automaker worth about 500 billion won for public subscription in the year 2005 when the auto firm is expected to start making a profit, Yi said.

The group will set up a foundation for journalists to support their overseas training in 1995 with the funds raised from the sale of real estate held by The CHUNGANG Daily News.

Yi also disclosed how the group will raise 4,300 billion won needed for car manufacturing. The first 1,000 billion won will come from the corporate reserve, another 1,000 billion won will come from sale of stocks held by the group, another 1,000 billion won from issuance of corporate bonds, 600 billion won from the government coffers and 600 billion won will be foreign capital, he elaborated.

Carmakers Meet, Form Committee

SK0312052094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0447 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 3 (YONHAP)—The presidents of the country's six automakers gathered at a Seoul hotel Saturday and adopted a resolution calling on the government to cancel its decision to allow the Samsung Group to enter the passenger car industry.

They also agreed to form a committee of working-level officials to spearhead their efforts to have the decision cancelled while deciding to ask Chongwadae and related ministries to reconsider approval for Samsung's passenger car project.

The meeting at the Palace Hotel in southern Seoul was attended by the presidents of Hyundai Motor Co., Kia Motors Corp., Asia Motors Co., Ssangyong Motor Co., Daewoo Motor Co. and Hyundai Precision & Industry Co.

"The established auto industry cannot but restrain its dire feelings at the moment," the presidents said in a statement. "We cannot understand the government's overnight change of policy that it would surely prevent Samsung from entering the passenger car industry for the development of the auto industry."

The meeting insisted that the introduction of foreign models by Samsung will threaten the country's technological self-reliance and the base of car exports, which the existing automakers have established over the past 30 years through blood and sweat.

The presidents also maintained that each of the automakers is proceeding with plans to expand production facilities to make 2 million units annually to secure competitiveness in export markets.

"Under such circumstances, who is going to assume responsibility for the national economic damage caused by the nationwide overlapping of overcapitalization?" they asked.

Noting that Samsung has already scouted over 300 employees from existing automakers—despite its promise to refrain from doing so—they feared that such action will lead to unusual wage hikes and thwart the will to develop technology, reducing the global competitiveness of domestic carmakers.

They also asserted that economic logic must take precedence over political logic in the government's policy decision, warning that Samsung's introduction of Japanese models will eventually lead the Korean auto industry to become mere parts suppliers for Japan.

Auto Industry Unions Oppose Plan

SK0512123294 Seoul YONHAP in English 1121 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 5 (YONHAP)—Labor unions of the existing motor companies and major automobile parts suppliers are reacting furiously against the reported plan of the government to allow the Samsung business group to joint the motor industry.

Leaders of the unions of the Hyundai, Kia, Daewoo, Ssangyong and Asia motor companies expressed the opposition at a joint press conference held during their visit to the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry Monday.

Denouncing the reported the government plan to allow Samsung's car-making business as an example of "government-economic collaboration," the union leaders threatened to go on a general strike by all motor unions if the government actually permits the Samsung plan.

They said that beginning Tuesday, their unions would stage protest rallies at their respective workshops during lunch hours.

"We will also form a nationwide committee to protest the move and launch a signature-collection campaign against Samsung's advancement to the motor industry," one of the union leaders said.

Samsung's advancement would in the long run set off cut-throat competition among motor companies in the country, shaking the foundation of the industry and deepening employment instability among all motor companies, the union leaders argued.

Carmakers Urge Reconsideration

SK0612104594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0732 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 6 (YONHAP)—The presidents of the country's six automakers demanded Tuesday that the government reconsider its decision to allow the Samsung business group's entry into the passenger car industry.

Meeting with Vice Minister for Trade, Industry and Energy Pak Un- so at Seoul's Palace Hotel, the presidents insisted that Samsung's foray into the passenger car market will not help the development of the local auto industry.

Vice Minister Pak, however, countered that the decision on Samsung's project was in line with the government's globalization strategy.

The six and Pak failed to narrow their differences over Samsung's projected impact on the local automobile industry although they exchanged opinions on a variety of issues surrounding the business giant's venture into the sector.

The meeting was attended by the presidents of Hyundai Motor Co., Daewoo Motor Co., Kia Motors Corp., Ssangyong Motor Co., Asia Motors Co. and Hyundai Precision and Industry Co.

Vice Minister Pak said that fostering free competition in the private sector is part of the government's industrial policy in accordance with its globalization strategy, urging the established automakers to improve their competitiveness in preparation for Samsung's entry into the field.

The presidents, for their part, hoped that the ministry would not approve Samsung's application for the introduction of passenger car production technology. Should their request be ignored, they intend to stage a strong campaign against Samsung's participation in the industry, they warned.

When Vice Minister Pak asked what the established carmakers have done over the past 20 years under the government's protectionist policy, they replied that they strove to develop their own models and expand production facilities.

Denouncing Samsung for its failure to honor an earlier pledge not to advance into the passenger car industry, they called into question the group's promise this time around to minimize its impact on the existing automakers.

They added that the memorandum which Samsung promised to draw up on its new venture carries no legally binding force.

Plutonium-Detecting Equipment Installed at Airport

SK0612083894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0800 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 6 (YONHAP)—Tuesday's installation of plutonium-detecting equipment at airport customs houses by the Korean Customs Administration (KCA) is regarded as an important step against the smuggling of nuclear materials into South Korea, with the government keenly aware that the country's airports are no longer "safety zones" from plutonium.

The black-market trade in nuclear materials was highlighted after 300 grams of plutonium turned up at the Munich airport in August, followed by 13 other cases in such countries as Russia, Turkey and Romania. This has put airports in nations throughout the world on emergency alert.

South Korea's installation of such equipment at airports came out of the government's recognition that it could not assume an indifferent attitude toward plutonium.

This is especially so given that Russian-made plutonium is secretly flowing into Southeast Asia, Japan and Taiwan, while Hong Kong is coming to the fore as a major black market for such material.

The plutonium-detecting equipment worth 4.5 million won (about 5,700 U.S. dollars) per piece comprises a gamma detector and a neutron analyzer.

Customs authorities plan to devote all their energy to blocking nuclear materials from entering the country by putting five sets of the equipment at the Kimpo and Kimhae Airports by year's end and an additional seven sets at ports including Pusan and Inchon next year.

Calling in four nuclear experts from the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI) from Sept. 21-25, the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP), noticing the situation, has already conducted education tours for security inspectors at six international airports and sea ports to test for nuclear materials and operate the equipment.

According to intelligence sources, 100-400 tons of plutonium and 400-700 tons of enriched uranium, which can be used to make an atomic bomb, are scattered around Russia at defense and production facilities, storage houses and laboratories.

Under these circumstances, Russian nuclear scientists and technicians, who had enjoyed various privileges in the former Soviet Union, are being lured to steal nuclear materials due to the difficult living conditions after the Soviet Union's collapse.

The intelligence sources believe the Russians cannot but succumb to temptation as the going rate for plutonium per kilogram is 250,000 to 300,000 U.S. dollars on the international black market.

The frightening part of this is the fact that it takes just 4 kg of plutonium to make a crude but workable atomic bomb.

And, nuclear materials can be hidden and carried in vinyl and wooden containers without a lead box and therefore, such nuclear- ambitious countries as North Korea and even terrorist organizations can easily obtain it.

The NSP officials said: "We will make doubly sure to check the nuclear materials flowing into the country by establishing a close cooperative system with other countries' intelligence agencies including the United States, Japan and Germany."

Han River Bridges Repairs Scheduled

SK0512104294 Seoul YONHAP in English 1002 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 5 (YONHAP)—Ten bridges across the Han River in Seoul are set to go through major repairs beginning with the Tongjak Bridge on Dec. 7, Seoul Mayor Choe Pyong-yol said Monday.

In a press conference, Choe said five bridges found to be highly precarious—Yongdong, Yanghwa (old), Mapo, Hannam and Chamsil—will undergo sweeping renovation in a five-year period from next year through 1999.

He said the repair plan is based on the outcome of the overall checks of all the existing Han River bridges in Seoul made in the wake of the collapse of the Songsu Bridge.

"The inspection showed there were a total of 1,114 defective points, but there is no major safety problem at the moment," the mayor said.

He said his municipality, however, would embark on bridge repairs beginning with those found needing prompt repairs.

In repairing bridges, his city would avoid simultaneous work so as to minimize traffic inconveniences and do repair work at night time as far as possible.

As for the collapsed Songsu Bridge, Choe said a final plan to repair or rebuild the fallen bridge will be worked out based on experts opinions as soon as the prosecution winds up its investigation of the bridge incident.

Arrest Warrants Requested for Puchon Officials

SK0412083594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0732 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Inchon City, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—The Inchon district prosecution, which is investigating the Puchon city tax scandal, uncovered Sunday [4 December] that three staffs of three wards in the city, had conspired together to embezzle taxes systematically by fabricating registration tax account books right before an inspection of the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI).

The prosecution requested arrest warrants for the civil servants—Choe Hyon-chol of Wonmi Ward, Yi Yong-sok of Ojong Ward and Chon Kyu-myong of Sinhung-tong (village) Office—on charges of damaging official documents and making false papers.

According to the prosecution's findings, Choe in collaboration with 8 other people omitted 177 cases of registration tax between September 10-14 which had been falsely described in account books.

Chon and Yi received 100,000 won respectively from two Ojong Ward tax officials in return for manipulating 14 cases of registration tax between Sept. 9-18.

Prosecutors said, "In relation to the account book alteration, we investigated them whether they had received instructions from the Puchon city government to do so, but failed to get such statements."

"We focused our inquiry on possibilities of superiors's instructions and tacit approvals but couldn't discover such suspicions." The prosecutors added.

Meanwhile, the prosecution plans to compare 103,503 receipts of registration and acquisition taxes in the wards with those in the banks by mobilizing some 40 people of prosecutors and banks officials from Monday.

Former KEPCO Head Receives 3-Year Sentence

SK0612074894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0538 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 6 (YONHAP)—An Pyong-hwa, former president of Korea Electric Power Corp. (KEPCO), was sentenced Tuesday to three years in prison and fined 900 million won (about 1.13 million U.S. dollars) for taking bribes.

The Seoul criminal district court also sentenced business tycoons who bribed An in connection with atomic power plant construction to 10 months' imprisonment with a two-year stay of execution.

The business tycoons include Tong-Ah group Chairman Choe Won-sok, Daewoo group Chairman Kim U-chung and Samsung Construction Co., Ltd. Chairman Pak Ki-sok. They had been indicted for offering 200 to 300 million won in bribes.

An, 63, was arrested and indicted last August for taking 300 million won from Samsung Construction and 200 million won each from Daewoo, Tong-Ah Construction Industrial and Samchang Corp.—the commercial agent here of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL)—as expressions of gratitude for placing orders for atomic power plant construction with them.

An received the money while he was KEPCO president from October 1991 for a period of one year.

The decision read: "The court finds all of the accused guilty, considering the time and way they gave and took the money. But, taking into account that the accused contributed to the economic development of this country as entrepreneurs and that they did not receive any preferential treatment in receiving orders after giving the bribes, the court sentences them to relatively light punishment."

Stock Share Prices 'Plunge Substantially'

SK0312062894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0529 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 3 (YONHAP)—This week share prices plunge substantially at the Korean Stock Exchange.

The crash, coming despite the expanded foreigners' stock investment ceiling, was due mainly to heavy selling by institutional investors and tightened money control.

The leading Korean composite stock price index was down 27.42 points from 1,081.45 the previous Saturday to 1,054.03.

Securities, banking, wholesale, steel, electric machinery and general machinery issues slid during the week while those of medicine, prefabricated metal, short-term financing, food and beverages gained.

Volume in the week totaled 222.45 million shares or 37.07 million per day on average. This represented a decline of 16 percent from the previous week.

Turnover amounted to 5,195.3 billion won in the week or 865.9 billion won a day. Last week, the total was 5,594.2 billion won.

Institutional investors sold 1,663.2 billion won worth of shares and bought 1,251.2 billion won worth in the week.

Despite the slide in prices, players' deposits kept swelling. Such deposits gained 29.6 billion won in the week ending Thursday from 3,402.8 billion won the previous Thursday to 3,432.4 billion won.

Favorable factors facing the Korean bourse in the immediate future include the continuing brisk business climate, an expected influx of more funds into the bourse, substantial policy deregulation and expected high dividends by those firms whose fiscal year ends in December.

On the other hand, the market is faced with such unfavorable factors as tightened monetary controls, probable heavy selling by institutional investors, surging international interest rates and a likely political dispute over the ruling party's unilateral passage of the 1995 budget bill.

Statistical Office Releases Employment Figures

SK0612093094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0831 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 6 (YONHAP)—Growth in new jobs has outpaced the rise in the economically active population over the past 30 years, leading to full employment, according to statistics released Tuesday by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

Women played an active role in the country's economic activities during the period, emerging as a key part of the workforce, according to the statistics.

Women have, however, been moving into the wholesale, retail, restaurant and lodging sectors since the late 1980s when the rate of women employed in manufacturing started to decrease, the statistics showed.

The data on the country's employment situation for the past 30 years indicated that the number of employed workers rose to 19,253, 000 in 1993 from 7,563,000 in 1963, a 3.2-percent increase annually.

Such expansion can be attributed to a continuous rise in job openings caused by an annual average economic growth rate of 8.6 percent from 1963 to 1993, the statistics showed.

The population taking part in economic activities—those who have the will and ability to work—rose to 19,803,000 in 1993 from 8,230,000 in 1963, an average 3-percent increase annually, causing the unemployment rate to drop to 2.8 percent from 8.1 percent in the same period, according to the statistics.

The employment rate fell further to 2.2 percent during the third quarter of this year, showing that the country actually achieved full employment considering those who failed to get jobs just because they had poor information and no skills after graduating from high school or college.

The statistics also showed that the unemployment rate for graduates of colleges or higher-level academic institutes nearly doubled between 1980's 74,800 and 1993's 140,000.

In particular, women's participation in economic activities increased remarkably. For the ratio of participants engaged in economic activities aged 15 or above, that of females, thanks to improved working conditions, jumped to 47.2 percent in 1993 from 37 percent in 1963, while that of males dipped slightly from 78.4 percent in 1963 to 76 percent in 1993, reflecting a surge in the number of boys attending school.

In proportion to the total economically active population as well, the ratio of females rose from 34.4 percent in 1963 to 40 percent in 1993, while that of males declined from 65.6 percent in l963 to 60 percent in 1993.

The nation's female employment ratio, however, still lags behind that of the United States (56 percent), Japan (50.7 percent), Britain (51.7 percent) and Singapore (51.3 percent)—all statistical figures from 1992. It is expected, therefore, that the female labor force will continue growing in the years to come.

By industry, the effects of advancement in economic structure were reflected vividly in employment. While the ratio in agriculture plummeted from 63 percent in 1963 to a mere 14.7 percent in 1993, that in manufacturing skyrocketed from 7.9 percent to 24.2 percent, and that in social overhead capital and other services from 28.3 percent to as much as 60.9 percent. Employment in the retail, wholesale, restaurant and lodging businesses jumped to 25.1 percent.

Such a phenomenon is closely related to an aversion for the so- called 3-d's (dirty, difficult and dangerous jobs) that surfaced around the close of the 1980s. The increase ratio in production and factory-hand jobs in the manufacturing sector, which maintained two- digit figures until 1987, dropped to 6.3 percent and 5.6 percent in 1992 and 1993, respectively, while manpower moved in great numbers to the retail, wholesale, restaurant and lodging sectors on account of sharp rises in eating out and leisure activities.

The average weekly working hours in manufacturing came to 53.9 hours in 1980, 55.4 hours in 1983, 55.8 hours in 1988 and 52.6 hours in 1993. The decrease in 1993 is attributed to improved incomes, curtailment in legal working hours and the trend toward taking Saturdays off.

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Favors Death Sentence for Ranarridh

BK0512141594 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hun Sen has declared that he will continue to be an out-and-out Vietnamese lackey, to revere Vietnam, to do away with the Cambodian nation, and to exterminate the Cambodian race. Hun Sen says even though the Cambodian people [words indistinct] he still reveres Vietnam. This is because Vietnam, in the wake of its invasion of Cambodia and killing of the Cambodian people and patriots, has installed him as a puppet ringleader.

The people in Phnom Penh say Hun Sen and his cronies are vile traitors and now have nothing more to hide. Even though they want to hide, they are not able to do so. Therefore, they have to openly declare that they are out-and-out Vietnamese lackeys.

The people further say Hun Sen, Chea Sim, Sar Kheng, Tie Banh, Heng Samrin, all traitors to the nation and who have given Cambodian territory to Vietnam and allowed 4 million Vietnamese to swallow Cambodia, must be sent to the gallows. With regard to Ranariddh and followers, as Hun Sen has already openly declared that he is a traitor to the nation and an out-and-out lackey of Vietnam, if you continue to collude with him to kill the nation, you must also be condemned to death.

KR Says Pedicab Operators Threaten Westerners

BK0512151194 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report from Phnom Penh, sharp-nosed people [Westerners] have rarely been seen roaming the city lately. This has prompted the city's pedicab operators to seek ways to liquidate those people, who are war provokers. The operators say since the sharp-nosed people continue to provide military aid for the three-eyed puppets and arch criminals to fuel war further [words indistinct] they have fled from their paddies to Phnom Penh to work as pedicab operators.

But now they can hardly earn even a small income; their stomachs have shrunk with each passing day. As for rice and other goods, their prices have gone up significantly. They can hardly get rice to feed themselves, even though they have to work very hard. Besides, Sar Kheng's policemen have taken turns at extorting their money.

The report indicates that the Phnom Penh pedicab operators are seeking the sharp-nosed people so as to lob Molotov cocktails at them, to burn their heads, and to awaken them to not continue their arrogant support of the war to kill more Cambodians.

Khmer Rouge Denounces Australian Military Aid

BK0212142294 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 2 Dec 94

[Unattributed commentary: "The Cambodian People Are Starving While Australia Announces Military Aid for the Two-Headed Government To Continue the War To Further Kill the Cambodian People—They Are Really War Criminals"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Australia recently announced that it is increasing military aid to the two-headed government to continue the communist Vietnamese war and kill more Cambodians.

Australia's announcement on providing military aid to continue fueling the war in Cambodia was made at a time when millions of Cambodians are starving and dying because of communist Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia. The Cambodian people nationwide want to end the war, restore peace, and reconcile the nation so that they can have a chance to work the land and have enough to eat, but Australia is only thinking of fueling the communist Vietnamese war to sow great destruction and famine and further kill the Cambodian people.

Further, this Australian act clearly shows that Australia has openly declared itself an enemy of the Cambodian nation and people. The people have clearly determined that Australia is a great criminal killing the Cambodian nation and people. The Cambodian people nationwide have clearly determined that they will cut off the head of whoever comes to kill the Cambodian nation and people. This is the Cambodian people's sacred right to self defense.

PGNUNS Cabinet Holds Weekly Session 5 Dec

BK0612034094 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 5 Dec 94

["Communique" of the Secretariat of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation Cabinet issued on 5 December; place not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation [PGNUNS] cabinet held its weekly working session on Monday, 5 December 1994, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Khieu Samphan, prime minister and minister of the National Army, with the participation of all members.

After hearing reports presented by each ministry and discussing them thoroughly with a high sense of responsibility, the cabinet sees the current general situation and has set measures as a political goal for our nation and people, as the following:

1. The 13-year war of the communist Vietnamese and the three-year war of the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and the alliance and two-headed government, totaling 16 years, has not been able to exterminate the Cambodian nation, people, and race. Why? This is because the Cambodian people and Democratic Kampuchea, holding aloft the patriotic banner, had fought valiantly and arduously against the aggressor communist Vietnamese and defeated them; and also against UNTAC and the alliance which brazenly trampled upon the Paris agreement and who joined with aggressor communist Vietnamese, defeating them and throwing them into a quagmire; and against the traitorous two-headed elements—lackeys of communist Vietnam and alliance—inflicting successive defeats on them and plunging them into agony. But in their agony, the enemies have tried try hard to regain their breath.

2. Therefore, our entire Cambodian nation and people in the countryside, in Phnom Penh, and abroad have jointly waged and are waging all forms of struggle against the Vietnamese war, and will not give in to the Vietnamese. They have fought arduously and valiantly and inflicted all-round defeats on the old and new enemies. Their warmongering and starvation policies have caused our entire nation and people to reject and fight them even more resolutely. Most importantly, they have suffered from a total shortage of troops. The general situation clearly shows that these warmongers can never conquer the Cambodian nation and people who have jointly struggled by following correct lines of struggle, especially by attacking, dissolving, and wiping out all of the two- headed government's political and civilian administrations in villages, communes, and districts.

Concerning their policy of criminal starvation to kill our people, the PGNUNS has set concrete measures and advised the provincial, district, commune, and village committees and National Army of Democratic Kampuchea to jointly hold discussions with the local people so as to protect their rice, crops, cattle, and property from being robbed by the two-headed forces.

Successive events and lessons of the past over 15 years clearly attest to our entire nation and people that in order to end all the sufferings, the extreme danger of starvation, and the presence of four million ethnic Vietnamese annexing Cambodia, it is imperative for our entire nation and people to struggle jointly to achieve national reconciliation and concord.

Only by achieving national reconciliation and rallying national forces of all political tendencies can we end communist Vietnam's war of aggression and genocide against Cambodia which is the source of all problems. Only then can our country be rebuilt and our people earn their living peacefully and happily. Only by so doing can we salvage and forever preserve our Cambodian nation, people, and race.

5 December 1994
The Secretariat of the PGNUNS Cabinet

KR Charge of Killing Thai Workers Rebutted

BK0612054894 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 5 Dec 94

[Station commentary: "The Truth Will Never Die"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 2 December, the Royal Thai Government affirmed that the government of the Kingdom of Cambodia had nothing to do with the killing of the workers of a Thai logging company in Preah Vihear Province.

It should be recalled that the 19 Thai workers were shot dead on Tuesday, 22 November 1994, when the Khmer Rouge failed to get a ransom of five million baht. However, on Saturday, 26 November, the Khmer Rouge announced that they had nothing to do with the massacre. Instead, they accused the Cambodian Government of committing the massacre together with the United States, France, and Australia, in an attempt to [words indistinct].

AFP reporting from Bangkok, quoted the Thai Foreign Minister Thaksin Chinnawat as saying that it was clear that the Cambodian Government did not commit the act and that he believed that Phnom Penh would cooperate with Thailand in the search for the suspects.

Moreover, a report of the Cambodian Defense Ministry stressed that on 25 November, a special unit of the 4th Military Region sent 100 to 150 soldiers to investigate the case of the Thai workers. The unit found 19 corpses and five timber trucks, a tractor, and two Toyota cars burned by the Khmer Rouge at (Prey Preah Vasa) in Choam Khsan District of Preah Vihear Province near the border. The incident took place is an area which is under Khmer Rouge control, and where it conducted logging deals with Thai companies.

Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said recently that Thai BLP Import-Export Company might have to face court charges for sending Thais to work outside the country without official permit.

Thaksin Chinnawat also accused the chairman of this company of not cooperating in the investigation, especially in providing information on the area where this company conducts business with the Khmer Rouge. Taksin said the BLP company must have known about the situation there. But it was much more concerned about its huge personal interests, and not about national interests and the safety of Thais.

This clearly shows that truth will never die and the outlawed Khmer Rouge rebels [words indistinct].

Coup Leader Sin Sen To Be Granted Amnesty

BK0412125594 Hong Kong AFP in English 1122 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 4 (AFP)—The Cambodian government has agreed to a recent suggestion by King Norodom Sihanouk to grant amnesty to General Sin Sen, sentenced to 18 years in prison for his involvement in a failed coup d'etat in July.

In a letter obtained by AFP Sunday, Acting Head of State Chea Sim said he "strongly supported your majesty's humanitarian suggestion."

The king had earlier sent a letter to Chea Sim and co-premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, asking them to consider an appeal for amnesty for Sin Sen.

"The co-premiers of the royal government also wish to inform your majesty that they support the suggestion of amnesty (for Sin Sen)," said Chea Sim, who is acting head of state while King Sihanouk recuperates from cancer treatment in Beijing.

In his letter, the king said he endorsed the amnesty proposal as Prince Norodom Chakrapong and former interior minister Sin Song, the masterminds of the coup, had escaped punishment.

Sin Sen, who had just been promoted to secretary of state for the interior, was sentenced to 18 years by a military court in October, while the two main coup leaders were sentenced in absentia to 20 years in prison.

Prince Chakkrapong, however, was allowed to leave the country the day after the failed July 2 putsch following the intervention of his father, King Sihanouk. Sin Song escaped house arrest from inside the Ministry of Defence here and fled to Thailand, where he was subsequently arrested for illegal entry. The government has demanded that Sin Song be returned here but Bangkok has said it must first determine whether the former interior minister is a political or criminal fugitive.

Speaking after the October trial, Sin Sen's lawyer said he would appeal the verdict. The two main coup leaders had disappeared and his client was being made the fall guy, he said.

Battambang Official Assesses Khmer Rouge Threat

BK0212093594 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Serei Kosal, first deputy governor of Battambang Province, affirmed on the morning of 30 November that there is nothing to worry about in the current military situation in Battambang Province. He said that this year the Khmer Rouge have indeed dispatched troops to Battambang Province, but they cannot do anything serious.

In fact, Koah Kralar commune in Moung Russei District and Ampil Pram Daeum commune in Bavel District—already under Khmer Rouge control since 18 October—have been taken back by us using the smallest number of troops. He said the Khmer Rouge is not a cause for concern, because it cannot do whatever it wants. What is of concern is the drought affecting 60,000 hectares of rice fields. Currently, there are up to 50,000 families of repatriated compatriots in Battambang Province, totaling about 200,000 persons, who are facing problems that are unexpected by the province.

It is true that the Khmer Rouge issue remains a vital one for us, but presently the Khmer Rouge dares to operate only in remote areas. He stressed that in Battambang Province, there are up to eight or nine Khmer Rouge divisions, if we are talking about numbers. However, there are no more than 2,000 troops, excluding those in the Pailin area.

The morale of Khmer Rouge soldiers is nil. These troops can only rob and plunder and barely keep themselves alive. Serei Kosal noted that when our people's living standards get better, the Khmer Rouge will automatically disappear. The Khmer Rouge is presently able to dupe some groups of poor people by using social classes issues.

The deputy provincial governor stressed that only three districts are facing a serious military situation: Moung Russei, Bavel, and Ek Phnum. He said that this seriousness does not mean that it will deteriorate to the level of a few years ago. Compared to the past few years, the situation is a lot less serious. The Khmer Rouge's major goal is to isolate Battambang Province through cutting off National Route 5. However, their ambition cannot be achieved.

In previous clashes, we never used regular troops. For the most part, the Khmer Rouge were defeated by militiamen or district troops.

Ranariddh Blames Sam Rangsi for Reduced Loans

BK0612025194 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, said at (Svay K'am) in Bati District of Takeo Province on 30 November that various international organizations have given loans to Cambodia for the restoration of the nation's infrastructure, but we have failed to use all of them. Thus, they will reduce their loans to Cambodia.

A UN official told the Prince Krompreah that the $40 million loan given to Cambodia last year was not completely utilized. Therefore, it would be reduced next year. Loans for the following years will be reduced if they are not used as planned in the years they are given for.

The Prince Krompreah stressed that Vietnam used the $2 billion loan it obtained from the World Bank last year. Therefore, Vietnam will get another $2 billion for their national restoration program this year.

The prince pointed out clearly that the failure to use foreign loans was not due to the prime ministers' removal of Sam Rangsi from the Finance Ministry, as

Sam Rangsi as claimed. Rather, the loan is to be reduced because Sam Rangsi was not able to spend it all when he was finance minister. However, Rangsi has claimed that this was because he was replaced as finance minister. This is not true. In fact, it was because Cambodia did not know how to spend the loans.

He said it is the former finance minister, and not the finance minister or any other official who is to be blamed for failing to use these loans. The new finance minister has only taken up office for a few days.

Concerning the loan utilization, the prince said the Agriculture Ministry should think of spending it on the right things, such as to restore (?large) reservoirs and irrigation networks.

Indonesia

Suharto Condemns Serb Attacks; Urges Conference

BK0612133694 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Suharto, in his capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM], has strongly criticized the Bosnian Serb attack on the UN-designated safe haven of Bihac. Suharto said the act poses a serious threat to the United Nations Protection Force, or UNPROFOR.

Speaking at a news briefing in Jakarta today, Minister/State Secretary Murdiono said that President Suharto also expressed concern over the loss of lives and the suffering inflicted on the people as a result of this attack. As chairman of the NAM, President Suharto said he felt that the credibility of the United Nations was being ridiculed. This is in relation to the UN arms embargo on all areas of the former Yugoslavia. The groups that possess arms superiority are attacking those that cannot defend themselves.

In accordance with the resolution adopted at the 11th NAM Ministerial Meeting in Cairo in May 1994, Indonesia, as chairman of the NAM, is reiterating its call for an international conference to be convened on the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The conference should be attended by all the conflicting parties; the countries contributing to the UN peacekeeping contingent; representatives of the NAM member countries, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the European Union; the five members of the UN Security Council; and the UN secretary general.

President Suharto said there is an urgent need to hold such a conference because the peace process has thus far not been effective in overcoming the conflicts that continue to cause suffering for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Alatas on Readiness for Talks With Timor Leaders

BK0512131994 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Suharto's readiness to hold a dialogue with anti-integration East Timor leaders is confined to Abilio Araujo in view of positive developments in the London talks. However, the president has no plans to meet other anti-integration leaders, including Ramos Horta. This was stated by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas during a working meeting with Parliamentary Commission I [dealing with foreign affairs, defense, and security] led by Vice Chairman Abu Hassan Sazili in Jakarta today.

According to Minister Ali Alatas, the president is ready for a dialogue with the anti-integration groups following informal meetings with several parties, especially overseas East Timorese opposed to the integration. They are living in Portugal, Macao, and Australia.

On the response by Portugal and the anti-integration groups to the president's readiness, Minister Ali Alatas said mass media in Portugal have misinterpreted the president's readiness as a willingness to meet terrorist leaders Xanana Gusmao or Ramos Horta.

East Timor Commander Cites Praise From UN Envoys

BK0312113994 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 0906 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dili, 3 Dec (ANTARA)—After visiting East Timor, two envoys from the UN secretary general have expressed their sympathy with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI] over their ability to overcome without casualties the rioting following the "Becora Market" incident in East Dili on 12 November.

Francesc Vendrell and Tamarat Samuel expressed their views during a meeting with Infantry Colonel Kiki Syahnakri, commander of the Wiradharma 164 Military Area Command, and his staff at the military headquarters in Dili on Saturday.

"We would like once again to positively express sympathy over the ABRI ability to overcome the rioting without casualties and to exercise self-restraint in dealing with the case," they said. [passage omitted]

The commander, who was accompanied by his staff and East Timor Provincial Police Chief Col. Drs. [academic title] Andreas Sugianto, called on the UN envoys to correctly explain the ABRI presence in East Timor to the international community.

"The ABRI is present in East Timor, not to wage war against or hurt the feelings of the people, but to protect the people and assist their development," Kiki Syahnakri said.

The envoys were seeking input for the fourth round of tripartite talks among the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, the UN secretary general, and the Portuguese minister of foreign affairs scheduled for Geneva in January 1995.

The envoys left East Timor today.

Defense Adviser Comments on Australian Policy

BK0212111594 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0630 GMT 2 Dec 94

[From the "International Report" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Indonesian defense officials have welcomed what they termed a watershed in Australian defense policy. Not so long ago, Canberra's strategic thinkers viewed the Indonesian archipelago as posing the most likely threat to Australia's security, but the policy statement presented to the Australian Parliament this week said Australia's most important defense relationship in Southeast Asia was with Indonesia.

From Jakarta, Michael Maher reports on the Indonesian reaction to the defense white paper:

[Begin recording] [Maher] Thirty years ago, at the height of Indonesia's so-called Confrontation with Malaysia, Australian troops were fighting against Indonesian soldiers on the island of Borneo, and [word indistinct] years ago all defense links between the countries were severed after Jakarta's [words indistinct] offense at an article published in the SYDNEY MORNING HERALD.

The situation today, however, is a dramatically different one. Much effort has gone into gradually rebuilding defense ties, and now officials in both Canberra and Jakarta say relations have never been better. Exercises between the two countries' armed forces are occurring on a frequent basis, as are exchanges at the officer level. The latest defense white paper, which will state Australian defense strategy into the next century, even goes so far as to say that the defense relationship with the Indonesia is the most important Australia has in Southeast Asia. This despite the fact that Australia is formally allied to both Singapore and Malaysia through the Five Power Defense Arrangement.

Indonesia's defense minister has warmly welcomed the white paper, and in a rare media interview, the minister's chief adviser, Rear Admiral Sunardi, has described the document as a watershed.

[Sunardi] The new document is a watershed in the strategic outlook of Australia, particularly that Australia now places its importance of its geographic reality rather than its cultural heritage, and the most important of its new strategic reorientation is that Australia is now consider itself as a true member of the Asia-Pacific region, particularly Southeast Asia and East Asia. And now, if you look at the new white paper, the defense of east Australia is in the framework of a cooperation with its neighbor.

[Maher] The white paper spells out very clearly that Indonesia is now regarded as Australia's most important regional defense partner. What is the armed forces' response to that?

[Sunardi] I think there is no real change of attitude from all sides because, after all, Indonesia has never, never considered Australia as an enemy. We welcome, we appreciate that finally you Australians recognize the importance of geographical reality.

[Maher] What do you attribute [words indistinct] to, apart from recognizing the importance of geographical location? After all, Indonesian and Australian forces were fighting each other during Confrontation in the early 1960's. So what we're saying is, to get us to this period where we now have unprecedented defense cooperation between the countries.

[Sunardi] Now here you touch a very important element of fears in the whole Asia-Pacific region; that is, generation of change of leaders in almost every country in the whole Asia-Pacific region. One of the generation changes that has occurred has occurred in Australia. I consider myself, I consider that your [words indistinct] belongs to the new generation, pretty younger generation of leaders in the Asia-Pacific region. Interesting. [end recording]

Taiwan Investment To Increase in 'All Sectors'

BK0612042694 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Taiwan investment in Indonesian is expected to increase in all sectors, especially during the period leading to the realization of APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] objectives. Speaking in Jakarta yesterday, Alexander Chen, chief of Taiwan's Economic and Trade Representative Office in Indonesia, said the Taiwan Government and businessmen view APEC as a special reason to invest overseas and Indonesia is one of the main investment destinations. Alexander Chen said Taiwan investment in Indonesia is expanding because of the increasingly attractive investment climate and the growing confidence given to Indonesia by that country's investors.

Minister Says Foreign Debt Reaches $93 Billion

BK0612081294 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Finance Minister Mar'ie Mohammad told Parliamentary Commission on State Budget in Jakarta today that Indonesia's outstanding foreign debt has reached U.S.$93 billion or about 200 trillion rupiah. He said the government's debt is 60 percent and the private sector's 40 percent. Only 8.162 trillion rupiah or 45.4 percent had been paid off out of the 17.67 trillion rupiah scheduled for repayment during the first semester of the 1994-1995 fiscal year. Mar'ie Mohammad said that as of September 1994 the government owed U.S.$56.664 billion. Indonesia's donor countries are France, Japan, the Netherlands, and the United States. Japan provided U.S.$26.022 billion loan to Indonesia, making it the top lending country.

* Food Minister Says Rice Stocks Sufficient

95SE0022A Jakarta PELITA in Indonesian 27 Oct 94 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta (PELITA)—President Suharto has asked, as a follow-up to preparations for the planting season, that the minister of state for food affairs/chief of BULOG [Logistics Board] prepare warehouses immediately and speed up the acquisition of rice so that the basic price of unhulled rice will not drop.

Minister of State for Food Affairs/Chief of BULOG Ibrahim Hasan said this to reporters after reporting on the food situation to the president at the Bina Graha [president's executive office] on Wednesday, 26 October.

The chief of BULOG said Indonesian rice stocks, which total nearly 800,000 tons, are still enough to meet needs. Meanwhile, Indonesia awaits by the end of the year the full repayment of 400,000 tons of rice borrowed by several countries, which will add to Indonesia's national rice stocks.

"Fortunately, our stocks have not fallen short. In fact, we still have 12,000 tons as we begin acquisition. Thus, current conditions are very much better than several months ago," he said.

The minister said that the countries whose time for repayment has come include the Philippines, Cuba, Tanzania, and several other African countries.

"We do not need to pay because we made loans, and repayments have fallen due. According to the contracts, they (the borrowers) can buy rice from ASEAN countries. Among the ASEAN countries, Vietnam is naturally the one from which they would be happiest to buy," said Ibrahim Hasan, who added that rice is hard to obtain there because of the current flood disaster. They can buy rice from Thailand or Burma instead.

"Rice is also available in other areas, such as India, but things like plant disease are problems. Therefore, we have no intention of buying from such areas. We are concentrating on the ASEAN region," he continued.

He said that a decision on commercial purchases of rice will not be made until the end of this month, after we learn the amounts of repayments Indonesia will receive. He declined to specify quantities, however, for fear that international rice merchants would raise prices if they knew the purchase figure.

The minister also reported that, following directions from the chief of state, efforts to speed up planting have been made. It is expected that harvesting can be done in February. He said that according to his observations, although the long dry season in Java has prevented farmers from harvesting their rice, small amounts have already been acquired in transmigration areas outside Java, such as in Sulawesi.

"Today, I need to report that such inputs have reached 12,000 to 15,000 tons, especially in South Sulawesi. That proves the truth of the president's statement that farmers in irrigated areas are still able to plant. The same is true of areas where pump systems are used, as recommended by the president. Such systems are now being implemented in areas where rivers are still flowing, such as in Sulawesi and Sumatera," he said.

Large-Scale Market Operations

Ibrahim Hasan also said that harvests are usually better after dry periods. "Therefore, the president directed that we prepare warehouses, that we monitor KUD [village unit cooperative] credits and the distribution of fertilizer, that we prepare task units where necessary for KUD's that face problems, and that cooperation be expanded with APEGTI (Indonesian Association of Sugar and Wheat Distributors)."

The minister also reported that market operations are larger than in previous months as a help to farmers who are busy preparing their fields. "Thus, we have been conducting big market operations, but there have been no problems. We have been doing market operations at a price of 665 rupiah. The government has now set a new basic price of 400 rupiah, up from 360 rupiah, and our purchase price for the next harvest will be 656 rupiah," Ibrahim Hasan said.

Under conditions like this, Ibrahim Hasan explained, the government is expected to give serious attention to farmers' selling prices.

Philippines

ASEAN To Exchange Nonsensitive Military Data

BK0112041294 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Philippines will begin soon the exchange of non-sensitive military information with its Asia-Pacific neighbors and member states of the ASEAN Regional Forum. Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino [words indistinct] the swapping of unclassified military data.

SRV Supports 'Peaceful' Spratlys Solution

BK0512121594 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in Tagalog 1000 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Vietnamese defense chief Doan Khue does not believe that the Spratly dispute will be resolved through force. Khue said this to the media after a two-hour meeting with Defense Secretary Renato De

Villa. Khue stressed that Vietnam supports a peaceful resolution to the Spratly dispute.

Meanwhile, Khue invited De Villa to visit Vietnam next year. At the same time, the two defense officials expressed their resolve for Manila and Hanoi to continue cooperation and training exchanges:

[Begin recording, in English] [Unidentified Vietnamese official, in progress] ...that we should not use force or threaten to use force in order to look for... [pauses] Or to settle down the issue or the dispute. So the position of Vietnam is that the concerned parties should discuss and negotiate on the concerned matters. And this is a very complicated issue. It will take time and it must be in process.

[De Villa] They have told us that this is also their understanding of their meeting with senior delegates from the People's Republic of China in a recent visit to Vietnam. They also told us that they will continue to work on the basis of a peaceful approach to the resolution of problems affecting the stability of the area. [end recording]

Official Urges More Talks With Military Rebels

BK0612062294 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Philippine Defense Secretary Renato De Villa has called for a resumption of peace talks with the rightist rebels, saying that the suspension was a (?turn) in the wrong direction. De Villa told reporters at Camp Aguinaldo that the peace talks with the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa [Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance] or RAM should be pushed through to achieve a long and lasting peace, which is very important for the Filipinos. He refused to say what the government will do in case the talks with the RAM collapse. Meanwhile, government panel head Fortunato Abat and the RAM blamed each other for airing their grievances to media, which led to the suspension of the peace talks. Abat confirmed that the formal talks with his panel and the RAM scheduled on Friday was called off because, in his words—we cannot reconcile our views.

Vietnam

PRC National People's Congress Delegation Departs

BK0612092494 Hanoi VNA in English 0630 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 6—The delegation of the National People's Congress (NPC) of the People's Republic of China led by Mr Wang Habin, alternate Politburo member of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee left Ho Chi Minh City today, concluding a six-day official visit to Vietnam.

While here, the Chinese delegation paid a tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his Mausoleum, visited his office and home and the Ho Chi Minh Museum. It was welcomed by party General Secretary Do Muoi, President Le Duc Anh, National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh, Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam Zhang Qing took part in these activities. [sentence as received]

During its stay in Ho Chi Minh City, the delegation was warmly welcomed by the city's Mayor Truong Tan Sang. The Chinese guests also visited Dong Nai Province, a number of industrial and cultural establishments in Ho Chi Minh City and Dong Nai.

Mr. Vu Mao, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and chairman of the Office of National Assembly, and Mr Qi Jianguo, political counsellor of Chinese Embassy accompanied the Chinese delegation during its visit to southern Vietnam.

Phan Van Khai Receives Singapore Delegation

BK0612043294 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai warmly received on 5 December in Hanoi a Singapore Government economic delegation led by Goh Chee Wee, State Minister of Trade and Industry, who is on a working visit to Vietnam.

Minister Goh Chee Wee stressed that Singapore wishes to help Vietnam not only in developing centralized industrial zones, but in attracting foreign investors and learning management experiences in the hope that the joint cooperation projects will create a new momentum for infrastructure development in Vietnam.

Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai reaffirmed the fine progress and possibility for wider and higher development of friendly and cooperative ties between the two nations.

Inter-Government Committee Meeting With Belgium

BK0612042094 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Vietnam-Belgium Inter-Governmental Cooperation Committee held its third meeting at the Government Guest House on 3 December. The Belgian crown prince who is on an official visit to Vietnam attended the opening ceremony.

Heavy Industry Minister Tran Lum as chairman of the Vietnam Inter-Governmental Cooperation Sub-Committee, and His Excellency Robert Urbain, minister of Foreign Trade and European Affairs as chairman of Belgian Inter-governmental Cooperation Sub-Committee chaired the meeting.

At the meeting, the two sides reviewed their cooperation since the second meeting in December 1992, and were delighted to see that it has made progress with laudable results in all the areas of politics, economics, finance, and trade. The two sides agreed to boost cooperation in the coming years, especially in the implementation of projects which Vietnam accords high priority and which Belgium has the technology such as infrastructure construction, transport and communications, energy, post and telegraph, medical, and food processing.

On 5 December, Minister Tran Lum representing the SRV Government, and Minister Robert Urbain representing the government of Kingdom of Belgium signed the proceedings of the meeting.

Assembly Delegation Visit to Thailand Reported

BK0612095694 Hanoi VNA in English 0630 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 6—Ms Tran Thi Tam Dan, member of the NA [National Assembly] Standing Committee headed a NA delegation to pay a visit to Thailand from Nov. 25-Dec. 1.

As guest of Mr. Wachasin Ketawandi, head of the Education Committee of Thai House of Representatives, the Vietnamese delegation of the Commission for Culture, Education, Youth, Youngsters and Children of the National Assembly paid a courtesy visit to Thai National Assembly President Maruat Bunnak, had working sessions with Mr. Surasak Thiamprasoet minister attached to the Prime Ministers Office in charge of education and youth and Mr. Pramot Sukhum, deputy minister of education and vice general secretary of the National Cultural Office.

It also made a tour of the Burapha University and the Oceanography Institute, the Thammasat University, the Bangkok Arts High School, the Suan Kulap Primary School, the Bangchai Vocational Training Centre and a number of cultural and historical relics.

Assembly Economic Delegation Visits Finland

BK0612101294 Hanoi VNA in English 0630 GMT 6 Dec 94

[All Finnish names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 6—A delegation of the National Assembly's Economy and Budget Commission led by its head, Mr Ly Thai Luan, has paid a working visit to Finland as guest of Mr Matti Louekoskis, chairman of the Finland's Parliament Economic Committee.

While there, the delegation paid a courtesy visit to Ms Riita Uosukainen, speaker of the Parliament. It held talks with a delegation of the Economic Committee and had working sessions with other parliamentarians. The delegation also met with officials of the Finland-Vietnam Friendship Association, the Finland Trade Association, the Finnish International Development Authority, the State Auditing Board of the Parliament and the Helsinki Stock Exchange.

During the meetings, the Finnish and Vietnamese sides expressed their wish that the relations between the two countries, in general and the two legislatures, in particular, be further developed, especially in the fields of trade, investment and personnel training.

Le Duc Anh Addresses Army Congress 29 Nov

BK3011075694 Hanoi VNA in English 0716 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 30—A congress of outstanding combatants and units of the Vietnam People's Army (VPA) has been opened here in anticipation of the VPA's 50th founding anniversary.

Speaking at the second day of the congress yesterday, President Le Duc Anh said the Vietnamese people, under the leadership of the communist party, have overcome difficulties and recorded initial but important achievements in the current national renovation process, and in national construction and defence.

He continued: 'These victories have once again proved that our party, people and armed forces, with high determination, braveness', creativeness and self-reliance, can overcome difficulties and trials and win at any circumstances. President Le Duc Anh noted that the armed forces had made big contributions to the success.

Defence Minister Gen. Doan Khue delivered the opening speech, saying that the congress would commend individuals and units for having recorded outstanding achievements in the armed service's determination-to-win emulation campaigns, experience in leadership and organisation of the emulation campaigns, and in fostering outstanding combatants and units would be drawn up, the defence minister stressed.

For his part, Sn. Lt. [Senior Lieutenant] Le Kha Phieu, chief of the Political General Department, pointed to the qualitative development of the emulation drives to implement tasks assigned for the army from the 80's especially since 1989.

He cited some emulation drives launched in army units, including one to build up pure and strong party organisations, to make regiments and battalions strong and comprehensive, to foster a regular army, and to create a whole some and diversified cultural army, and to create a wholesome and diversified cultural army, and to create a wholesome and diversified cultural environment within army units.

As the general stated, the first and foremost standards to evaluate individuals and unit in the emulation campaigns are loyality to and persistency in the socialist ideals, the noble targets of the party and people and political awareness in face of extremely complicated effects of the present struggle.

The determination-to win emulation campaigns in the coming years aim to build a regular, modern and strong army and to strengthen all-people's defence in order to foil every scheme by the hostile forces in their 'peace evolution' to be prepared to fight the enemy, and finally to firmly defend the motherland, the party and the people's life, Gen. Luyen stressed.

National Assembly Issues Communique on Meeting

BK0612034894 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] From 24 November to 1 December, the National Assembly Standing Committee held a regular meeting in Hanoi under the direction of Chairman Nong Duc Manh. Also attending the session was State Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh.

1. The National Assembly Standing Committee heard reports from the government and the Vietnam Fatherland Front on results of the local people's council elections for the term 1994-99, and report on inspection activities of delegates of the National Assembly Standing Committee in the elections.

The National Assembly Standing Committee highly values the results of the elections held in accordance with laws and democratic principles. Voters nationwide have highlighted the citizen's responsibility and right of mastery in building an administration by the people, of the people, and for the people by enthusiastically participating in the elections and electing worthy representatives to the people's councils.

The government, the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee, the various sectors and echelons, the electoral councils and teams have exerted valuable efforts in carrying out their tasks and using their authority in accordance with the law, thus contributing significantly to the success of the elections.

The National Assembly Standing Committee issued directives to resolve post-election issues that need further action, and on the first session of the new people's councils.

2. The National Assembly Standing Committee presented its views of the government reports on budget allocation proposal, infrastructure construction capital allocation proposal, and law building program proposal for 1995, as the realization of decisions made by the recent National Assembly's sixth session.

3. The National Assembly Standing Committee gave its view of the proposal for the agenda and schedule of the upcoming seventh session of the Ninth National Assembly, and requested the government and organs and agencies concerned to urgently prepare draft projects and reports for the event.

The National Assembly Standing Committee continued to consider and discuss the issues raised in the draft civil code such as civil obligations and contracts, right of inheritance, copyright, technology ownership, and civil relations with foreigners. It has been decided that people's views on this code would be solicited and the report tabled at the National Assembly's seventh session.

4. After listening to representatives of the law drafting and investigation committees reporting on the implementation of National Assembly recommendations made in previous meetings, and on proposal to amend the decree on copyright protection, decree on protection of public roads and buildings, and decree on protection and utilization of work by hydro-meteorology sector, the National Assembly Standing Committee approved the decrees. The National Assembly Standing Committee also gave its views on the draft decrees on diplomatic ranks and on fees for consideration and approval, which would be finalized at a later session.

* Official Interviewed on Council Elections

952E0023A Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 12 Oct 94 pp 1, 3

[Article by Minh Thanh: "Le Khac Binh, Chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City Electoral Council: To Build Pure and Strong Local Administrations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Editor's note: *Together with the rest of the country, Ho Chi Minh City is actively implementing the plan to organize elections of people's council members at all levels. To date, the city has carried out various tasks in a fairly thorough manner and on schedule, including setting up the electoral council, organizing the first and second consultative conferences, soliciting voters' views on self-nominated and nominated candidates.... Le Khac Binh, chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City Electoral Council has granted an interview to a SAIGON GIAI PHONG correspondent in which he elaborated on the status and task of holding people's council elections at all levels in the city.*

Correspondent: *These people's council elections are of great importance to the current renovation undertaking of our country. What requirements and tasks has Ho Chi Minh City defined for the elections?*

Le Khac Binh: This is a broad political movement and democratic activity of the people aimed at electing councilors representing the people's will, aspirations, and intellect to the local organs of state power, and building local administrations which are pure and strong, which can operate efficiently and effectively, and which really are of the people, by the people, and for the people.

These elections are held against the backdrop of Ho Chi Minh and the rest of our country having recorded important successes in the renovation undertaking and are gradually shifting to a new period—the period of pushing forward industrialization and modernization one step further. On the other hand, hostile forces are also feverishly carrying out the "peaceful evolution strategy" to weaken the people's power and subvert our regime. For this reason, the people's councils to be elected must be capable of fulfilling their important responsibilities in the renovation undertaking, promoting production, improving the people's standard of living, and firmly maintaining political stability.

The Fourth People's Council of Ho Chi Minh City, a local organ of state authority and a representative of the people's will, aspirations, and mastery, has undergone positive changes in performing its duties and exercising its authority. In its forthcoming term, with the advent of the (revised) Law on Organization of People's Councils and People's Committees and the (revised) Law on Election of People's Council Members, which clearly reflect the democratic character of the electoral system and the political and popular character of local organs of state power, the People's Council of Ho Chi Minh City has an even greater obligation to highly develop the efficiency of its activities. The elections must be held in a truly democratic manner and in accordance with the law to select councilors who are really trusted by the people, virtuous, talented, and capable of standing firm in the face of the current trials.

Correspondent: *In your capacity as vice chairman of the National Assembly Judiciary Committee and concurrently chairman of the People's Council and the Fatherland Front Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, would you please explain how the revision of the two laws on the people's council and people's committee has influenced the development of the role of the people's council in the new situation?*

Le Khac Binh: The Law on Organization of People's Councils and People's Committees and the Law on Election of People's Council Members, which were adopted by the National Assembly in 1989, have made an important contribution to the building and consolidation of the organization and activities of local administrations. However, after the 1992 Constitution was passed by the National Assembly, the renovation of the political system and the reform of the state machinery and national administrative structure have posed new requirements for the organization and activities of local administrations. For this reason, at its fifth session, the Ninth National Assembly undertook to revise the two laws.

The two laws were revised to enhance the political and popular character of elective organs and to improve the position, role, and efficiency of people's councils. This is to ensure that people's councils are really a form of state organization capable of drawing a wide variety of people's representatives of all walks of life into taking part in state affairs. In addition, it is aimed at guaranteeing that people's councils will play an active, creative role in deciding on important issues concerning the determination of the direction of development of localities, and that the efficiency of people's council sessions and of councilors' activities will be improved. The revision of the two laws is also aimed at contributing to reforming the state machinery, broadening democracy, and bringing into full play the people's sense of mastery by encouraging them to participate in making local administrative apparatuses pure, strong, and really an administration of the people, by the people, and for the people. The method of organizing elections of people's council members has been renovated to ensure that elections are held in a really democratic manner and in accordance with the law, and that all necessary conditions are created for voters to select capable persons worthy of being representatives of the people's will, aspirations, and intellect in local organs of state power.

Correspondent: *Would you please comment on the implementation of the election plan in Ho Chi Minh City recently?*

Le Khac Binh: At the city level, we have organized two consultative conferences to consider the list of candidates nominated by various sectors and socioeconomic organizations and the list of self-nominated candidates. The steps that we have taken to implement the election plan have clearly reflected the concept of enhancing the political and popular character of elective organs, reforming the state machinery, and ensuring that elections will be held in a really democratic manner and in accordance with the law. At the first consultative conference, we respected the suggestions concerning the structure, composition, and number of candidates nominated by various units and organizations, and we reached agreement on a more rational structure, composition, and number of nominees. After that, various organs, organizations, and units held conferences to nominate candidates. When considering nominees, these conferences paid special attention to comparing their qualifications with the required standards of people's council members.

To date, the preliminary list of Ho Chi Minh City People's Council candidates has shown that the proportion of nominees from the administrative management bloc in the candidate composition has been sharply reduced, and that the nominees from the bloc of the Fatherland Front, its member organizations, and various associations account for a high percentage of the candidates. Many of the nominees are typical ordinary people. Such a composition is designed to guarantee that the people's council is a form of state organization capable of drawing a great variety of the people's representatives of all walks of life into taking part in state affairs.

In particular, many people have put themselves up as candidates for election to the Ho Chi Minh City People's Council. This shows that the masses of all social strata have confidence in the renovative and democratic character and the legality of the elections. Ho Chi Minh City is holding conferences to solicit public opinions in localities where nominated and self-nominated candidates work and live. Selection of people's council candidates must be based on the standards determined by the Law on Election of People's Council Members and on the requirement that a rational composition of candidates representing the people from all walks of life be ensured.

Correspondent: *Would you please comment on the forthcoming tasks of the election plan.*

Le Khac Binh: Ho Chi Minh City pays special attention to leading and organizing propaganda work and agitation widely among the people of all strata. This is aimed at enabling all people to clearly understand their responsibility and mastery so that they may voluntarily respond to and participate in the broad popular political movement and democratic activities in Ho Chi Minh City and select and elect worthy councilors.

The people's councils at all levels are reviewing their work in the recent term to gain experience in organization and operation for application in the next term. This is an important task in preparing for a new term of people's councils. Reality has shown that, according to the Law on Organization of People's Councils, the people's council is a local organ of state power. But, to assert its position, the people's council itself must strive to fulfill its duties within the limits of its authority and must really represent the people's will, aspirations, and mastery. By penetratingly reviewing the activities of the people's councils in their recent term, we will have more favorable conditions for bringing into full play the duties and authority of the people's councils in their next term.

After holding the third consultative conference to establish an official name list of people's council candidates, these candidates will meet with voters to enable the latter to evaluate and pick their representatives. The law does not compel voters to select anyone in particular; instead, it encourages them to make their choice freely. The election organizations, party organizations, mass organizations, and the administration are not allowed to make suggestions to voters. It is for this reason that voters should study the candidates carefully in order to select really talented and virtuous persons as their councilors.

Correspondent: *We sincerely thank you, comrade.*

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